

In this Issue:

The 65th Legislature

Zoo Story

Tales of a West Texas Architect

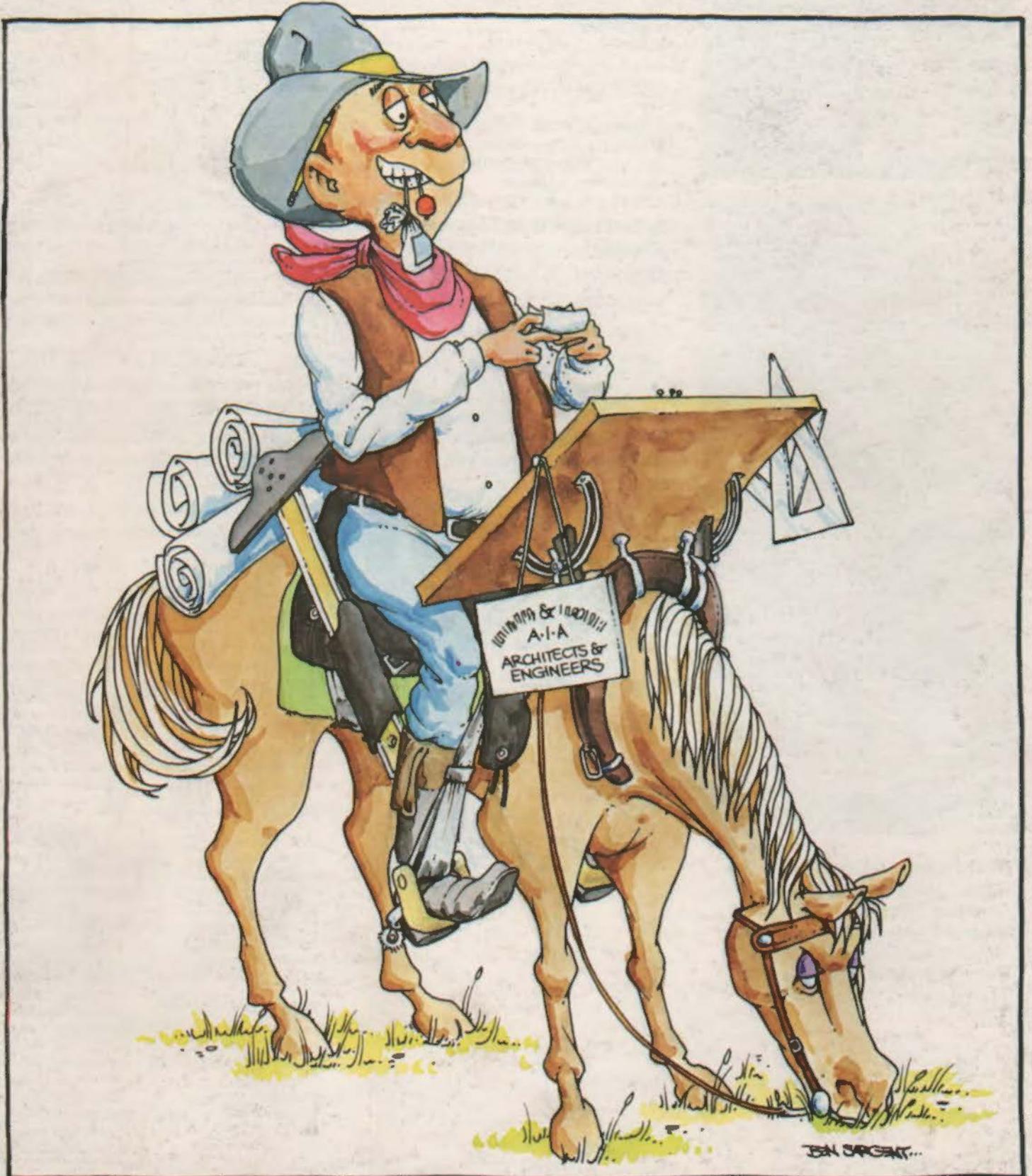
Schools Architecture

Master Builder as Financial Manager

Plus regular columns. See Contents.

Texas Architect

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Contents



On the cover: Austin cartoonist Ben Sargent, political satirist for the Austin American-Statesman, does some fantasizing about a special species of architect. For additional sketches, see Woodlief Brown's "Tales of a West Texas Architect" on page 19.

The 65th Legislature: Where Do We Go From Here? 7

The state's solons are setting up shop in Austin again. What will they do about energy? Transportation? Land-use? Historic preservation? Architects' registration? A survey of prospects.

Zoo Story 15

Hollywood comes to Waco (sort of) in the person of a man named Billy Jack, who helps to save the zoo.

Tales of a West Texas Architect .. 19

If big-city architects think they've got problems, they ought to try designing a church on a blackboard.

Schools Architecture 22

What's new in school design? Five outstanding projects from a recent exhibition.

A Bank for Homelooks 30

A classic solution to the problem of designing a small branch bank that doesn't look and feel like a guardhouse.

Freeways and Airwaves 34

How to build a sound-proof broadcasting studio on a busy Houston freeway—and win a design award for it.

Profile: Jack McGinty 37

Master Builder as Financial Manager 41

An architect turned financial consultant argues the case for better financial management systems in design firms.

In the News 45

Letters 54

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The Texas Society of Architects

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Why TSA?

Why the Texas Society of Architects?

That seems like a meaningful question for an incoming president to ask — not only of architects but of all those people who make up what we have called the “architectural community.” This includes architectural clients, allied professionals, students, public officials — anyone who really cares about the “built environment” of Texas and its effect on the natural environment.

Why a “society of architects”?

Well, why a “society” of any kind? What is a “society”? One of the meanings listed in the dictionary is “a voluntary association of individuals for common ends . . . working together and meeting periodically because of common interest, belief, or profession.”

That sums it up quite nicely I think. And of all the “common ends and interests” shared by Texas’ architectural community, there is none more urgent, here at the outset of the 65th session of the Texas legislature, than our responsibility to participate — directly and personally — in the process of representative government by which the laws of our state are enacted and executed.

Glance at the list of issues facing this session of the legislature: energy-use in buildings, land-management (including coastal and county zoning), regional and city planning, mass transit, historic preservation. While many of these issues have become quite critical for the “society” of the entire state, they are particularly critical for the state’s “professional society” of architects. How such issues are resolved, or not resolved, will very much influence the direction of our profession and thus the shape and pattern of the whole built environment of Texas.

We should, therefore, all of us in the “architectural community,” make our voices loudly heard in the legislature’s coming deliberations on these issues. We should testify before committees, submit position papers, phone, write, and buttonhole our senators and representatives. We should have a strong and visible role, both as resource persons and initiators, in the outcome of the 65th session of the Texas Legislature. And we should hope that, for their part, our legislators will be interested in hearing what we have to say.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles F. Stahl".

Charles F. Stahl
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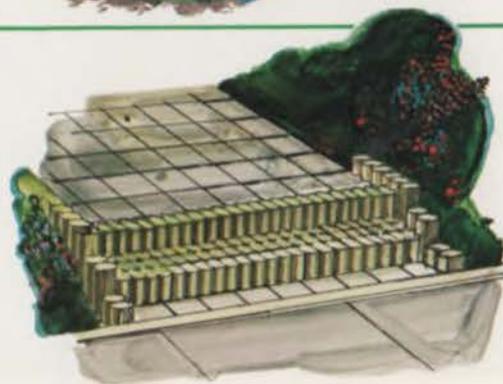
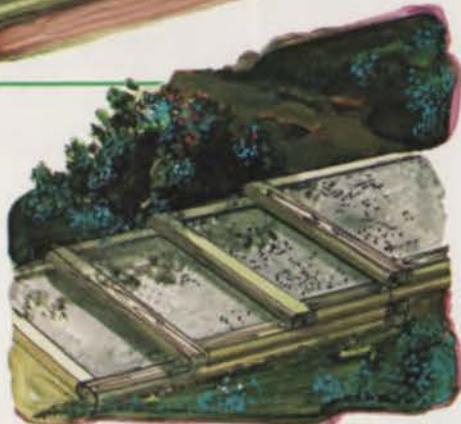


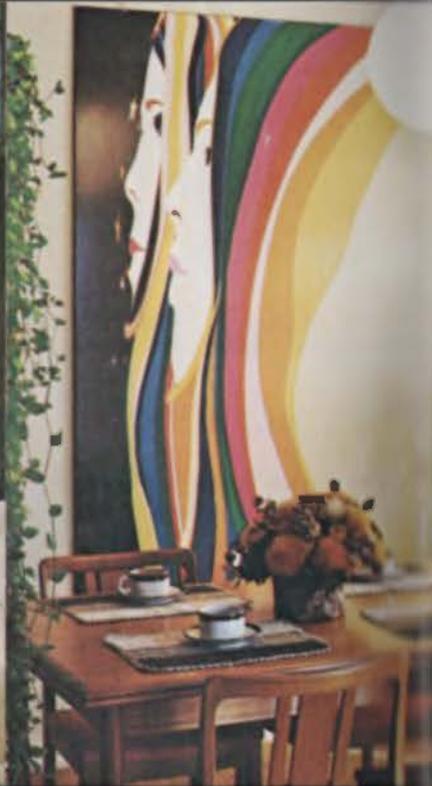
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The 65th Legislature

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Ray Reece

The bell is ringing on Capitol Hill in Austin, summoning the flock of state senators and representatives to their biennial congregation: the 65th session of the legislature convenes at noon on January 11, 1977. Already, as Texas Architect goes to press in mid-December, the steam is on in Capitol offices and hearing rooms. Committees are meeting, listening to supplicants and preparing final reports, while legislators, dropping into Austin more frequently now, beef up their staffs, strengthen alliances, and prefile bills — of which there will probably

be some 350 to 400 before the session has even convened.

In advance of this session of the legislature, Texas Architect has attempted a cursory survey of legislative prospects in those general issue areas with which our readers have traditionally been concerned: energy, environment, land management and planning, transportation, historic resources, architects' registration. We present, in the next few pages, the results of that extremely informal survey.

Energy

Sure enough, just as we had about convinced ourselves that the energy crisis really *had* gone away, or at least had stabilized at levels that wouldn't force us to revolutionize our lives and our built environment after all — here comes President-elect Jimmy Carter, fresh from a series of intensive economic briefings, to inform us that the toughest years, by far, lie shortly ahead. His warning is amplified by recent increases in the cost of practically all basic raw materials, from steel and uranium to wood, glass, oil and natural gas (our reserves of which reportedly have sunk to between eight and ten years).

The handwriting is thus etched more deeply into the wall than it was two years ago, when *Texas Architect* called on the

64th Legislature to address the state's energy problems through the most urgent, imaginative, and comprehensive means at hand (*Texas Architect*, March/April, 1975). We suggested at the time, though perhaps not strongly enough, that the state's architectural community — including users as well as practitioners — could not be expected to bring its own talents fully to bear on the energy crisis until the government had established a *systematic* program of energy initiatives both accessible to and supportive of those architects, engineers, and clients attempting to cope with energy-related design difficulties.

Waiting for a Policy

What we had hoped would emanate from the 64th Legislature was something resembling a uniform *energy policy* for the state of Texas, advancing new guidelines and standards for energy-efficient design, along with simplified procedures for administering those standards, while also encouraging the development and applica-

“Eventually this program will be of utmost concern to architects working on state construction jobs, since their designs will have to accomplish given quotas of energy consumption.”

tion of rational, disaster-proof, non-polluting alternative energy sources — particularly those based on solar, wind, and tidal technologies.

No Policy, Few Laws

Such a policy was not forthcoming. In fact, the 64th Legislature either voted down or buried in committee some 30-odd pieces of progressive energy legislation while passing a total of six or seven. Most of those which passed, moreover, will have at best a minimal impact on the long-term energy needs of the state. The controversial Public Utilities Commission, for example, is aimed primarily at consumer relief from unfair prices, not at restructuring Texas' energy-gobbling utility grid. Extension of the 55-mph speed limit, even if it weren't circumvented by motorists equipped with CB radios, can save but a tiny fraction of Texas' annual energy allowance. And a bill to assure that Texas-produced natural gas will in the future be apportioned first to Texans and then to out-of-state customers does nothing whatever to *conserve* that gas in the ground. Slightly more progressive is a statute geared to development of the state's geothermal (underground steam) resources, but here, too, we have a nonrenewable fuel item with untested environmental effects — especially in regard to land subsidence and thermal pollution.

Three Steps Forward

Only three of the last session's "energy bills" appear to have thrust toward a genuine turnaround in the state's uncomfortable energy posture (Texas consumes 10% of America's annual energy produce, with higher figures projected for the future). One of these was a bill by Austin Senator Lloyd Doggett providing sales and franchise tax exemptions for manufacturers, distributors, and purchasers of solar heating and cooling devices. Another was SB 516, sponsored by Max Sherman of Amarillo, which directed the State Building Commission to work toward long-term energy conservation on three fronts: (1) promulgation of an "Energy Conservation Manual" for both



Doggett: solar energy proponent.

residential and commercial buildings (these manuals are now available from the Building Commission); (2) development of a system of "energy budgets" for all structures owned or maintained by the state; (3) development of an energy-efficient "model building code" for Texas cities and subdivisions. A third important energy bill by the 64th session gave agency status to the Governor's Energy Advisory Council.

Energy Budgets and Codes

The Building Commission is still at work on its "energy budgets" and model city building codes, both of which programs are using the input of multidisciplinary citizen advisory committees. The "budget" project, to be completed early in 1977, is actually a computer-based system for establishing realistic energy-quotas first for new and later for existing state buildings. Eventually this program will be of utmost concern to architects working on state construction jobs, since their designs will have to accomplish given quotas, but every attempt is being made to allow for maximum design freedom at least in regard to the shell of the building. Indeed, a first draft of the proposed "budgeting" system explicitly states that the architect will not be expected to "trade off" elements of the shell-design to compensate for energy deficiencies in, say, the mechanical engineering phase of the project. That phase will have its own separate quota,

generally in compliance with equipment manufacturers' specifications, as will the electrical engineering phase.

Performance Principle

What we are getting here, apparently, is a kind of compromise between a "prescriptive" approach to energy-efficient design, typified by the much-publicized ASHRAE 90-75 design standards, and a "performance" approach, where the designer is free of any *a priori* constraints on his or her choice of materials, orientation, fenestration systems, etc. — so long as the completed structure achieves its specified energy performance.

A similar compromise is being pursued in the Building Commission's "model building code" for cities, according to Austin architect Mac Holder, who chairs the professional advisory committee. The code is intended, of course, to help local governments promote energy-efficient architecture within their jurisdictions. To enhance its use, a simple computer program has been developed through which an architect in a given city may test a preliminary design against the provisions of the code itself. In addition, says Holder, the code will offer maximum encouragement for the use of alternative energy systems. He expects the code to be widely accepted both by city officials and by architects. He also expects the 65th Legislature to pass some form of "home rule" legislation enabling any city or county to adopt the code.

Energy Advisory Council

In a sense, the most potentially effective piece of energy legislation to come from the 64th session was that extending the life and scope of the Governor's Energy Advisory Council (GEAC) mentioned above. Its importance is clearly stated in its charge by the legislature "to promote a statewide energy policy and to keep the public informed on energy matters." The former objective is being approached by a Forecasting and Policy Analysis Division whose myriad functions include: (1) development of a computerized energy data-base now comprising 42,000 items; (2) development of a "Texas Energy-Economic Forecasting Model", whereby,

among other things, state planners may analyze a variety of possible "energy scenarios" for Texas (1976-2000), studying the probable effects of each scenario on the state's economy, environment, etc.; (3) assessment of "developing technologies", including solar, nuclear, and "enhanced recovery of oil and gas."

The second of GEAC's major responsibilities, that of "public information," is carried out by a Program Operations Division. Besides publishing a valuable monthly *Texas Energy Report*, plus a slew of news releases, this Division also runs a speakers bureau and generates educational materials for colleges and public schools, as well as for the business and industrial communities. GEAC publications distributed by the Division include a number of reports on energy-focused research projects, conducted mainly at Texas universities, which were funded by the Council itself. These and other activities make GEAC a key element in the state's fledgling energy program. One can only hope that it will be given the broadest possible latitude in which to continue its work toward an effective "statewide energy policy" — even if that means, eventually, staff proposals that Texas back away from the hazards of a nuclear-based energy grid (as Illinois has done with its five-year nuclear moratorium) in favor of options like coal, wind, solar, and simple conservation.

State Building Code?

So much, then, for the energy-seeds planted here and there by a none-too-bold 64th Legislature. What are the prospects for the 65th? One of the more tantalizing to imagine is the possible enactment of a uniform state building code applying not only to public buildings but to private as well. (Formulation of such a code might begin with a 1975 "Position Paper" on the "Possible Role and Scope of a Building Code for Texas," authored by a task force chaired by Raymond Reed, dean of the School of Architecture at Texas A&M.) Senator Doggett had been rumored to be considering a building code initiative but has since told *Texas Architect* he will not propose it. Another possible tack, albeit less grand, is suggested in a study by Dr. Marlan Blissett, of the LBJ School of

Public Affairs, analyzing the considerable potential for energy conservation through a computerized, consolidated system of state procurement of supplies, fuels, materials, and equipment. Theoretically, the system would also be placed at the disposal of Texas municipalities wishing to share in its economies.

Coming back now to the *realities* of Texas politics, here is a summary of what GEAC has labeled "Major Energy Issues Anticipated in the 65th Legislature." (1) An attempt to shift regulation of natural gas utilities from the Railroad Commission to the Public Utilities Commission. (2) Proposals to increase the severance tax burden on out-of-state users of Texas oil and natural gas. (3) Abolition of "fuel adjustment charges" levied by utilities. (4) Majority consent unitization of oil and gas fields. (5) The volatile question of whether Texas will host a proposed 800-mile coal slurry pipeline (possibly as many as three lines) from Wyoming and/or Colorado, necessitating the power of eminent domain for whatever agency administers the

pipeline, probably the Railroad Commission. (6) Increased funding for energy research and development. (7) Further tax incentives for energy conservation and use of renewable fuel resources. (8) Guaranteed loans for energy conservation improvements on existing structures.

There is, finally, another item which ought perhaps to have been listed by GEAC as a "major anticipated energy issue", but wasn't because it now enjoys the status of a foregone conclusion: the issue of whether a deepwater superport will be constructed off the Texas coast, and if so, whether it will be publicly or privately controlled. The answer is that it will be constructed — solely for the purpose of unloading middle-eastern crude oil from supertankers — and controlled by a consortium of nine major oil companies calling their operation Seadock. This resolution of the matter has been actively sought by Governor Dolph Briscoe, and all that remains, according to sources in the Capitol, is a final stroke of the rubber stamp by the 65th Legislature.

Transportation



The 65th Legislature confronts a matrix of state transportation difficulties and potential solutions remarkably similar to that confronted by the 64th — which implies, accurately, that the 64th did not get the ball rolling here. Texas has become an urban state with a population growth among the highest in the country. If we are to avoid the grossest features of urban and suburban blight, of ruined earth and poisoned air and water, not to mention a recklessly quickened pace of fuel depletion, we must achieve as thoughtful and dramatic a revamping of our transportation grid as is due our energy grid, and we must achieve it quickly.

Integrated Planning Required

This calls for integrated planning and policy formulation of the highest order. It

"We are shackled in Texas by a welter of overlapping, cross-firing 'transportation agencies' biased toward the automobile, the airplane, and virtually nothing else, not even railroads."

calls for imagination and flexibility charged with a willingness to consider any number of transportation options, sifting and refining toward a system that will last us indefinitely, that won't have to be discarded ten years from now, when the average citizen may well be unable to support a personal car. And yet — as pointed out in a transportation study submitted two years ago by the LBJ School of Public Affairs — we are shackled in Texas by a welter of overlapping, cross-firing "transportation agencies" biased traditionally toward the automobile, the airplane, and virtually nothing else, not even railroads.

Now, on the eve of the 65th Legislature, a second LBJ School transportation study has been prepared, this one specifically for the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives, chaired by Jim Nugent of Kerrville.

Its conclusions are almost identical, if more exact in terms of policy suggestion, to those contained in the first study. At the top of the list is "improvement of governmental organization for transportation policy-making." This would be accompanied by "increased rationalization of transportation financing" and "improved regulation and planning for commercial transportation."

Four Nervy Ideas

Specific objectives include: (1) a unified body of policy initiatives "reflecting the state's need for competition and economic parity among different transportation modes"; (2) abolition of the state's antiquarian practice of "dedicated funding" for highways, wherein a fixed percentage of gasoline and other tax money is constitutionally reserved for highways alone; (3) establishment and financing of regional transit authorities multi-modal in nature, including a suggestion that cities be enabled to levy a fee for automobile registration; (4) creation of a State Department of Transportation comprising and superceding all existing agencies, commissions, and bureaus which presently do so much to impede our progress toward a rational transportation system.

What the 64th session did, incidentally, when faced with these same recommenda-

tions, was change the name of the Highway Commission to the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation. It then appropriated a whopping \$15 million per year to be spent on the "public transportation" part. This was matched last year by federal and local funds for a total of about \$100 million, all of which was spent to purchase buses and related items for existing local transit companies. The "highway" part of the arrangement, on the other hand, tipped the budget-scale at more than \$900 million. Even at that, the highway people claim to have been so damaged by inflation and revenue losses due to gasoline conservation that they must have a big dose of emergency funding just to maintain the present highway system.

"Governor's Highway Bill"

This is where the "Governor's Highway Bill" (as it has come almost affectionately to be called) enters the legislative picture. It will be sponsored in the House by Representatives Nugent and Joe Allen, of Baytown. The bill (HB3) provides (1) that 75% of state taxes derived from sales of "oil, lubricants, and auto parts" go directly to the Dedicated Highway Fund, instead of to the Omnibus General Tax Fund which formerly got the money, producing an extra \$200 million per year for highways; (2) that an equal percentage of tax receipts from "tires, tubes, and accessories" likewise be shifted from the Omnibus Fund to highways, adding another \$45 million; (3) that a ceiling of \$20 million be placed on those highway funds used to subsidize the Department of Public Safety (DPS), freeing about \$50 million — for a total of nearly \$300 million in additional annual revenues for the Dedicated Highway Fund. (The governor has also proposed that \$875 million of the state's projected surplus be allocated to highways).

Doggett Opposition

State Senator Lloyd Doggett, for one, will oppose this bill. "The main thing I'm going to do in transportation," he said, "is take a stance against the governor's highway package as currently proposed. . . I would hope we don't drop another step backward by taking money from other

needed programs and trying to build highways at the same rate we did back in the 50's and 60's." Most observers with whom we spoke at the Capitol, however, believe "the governor's package" will fly like a bird.

What, if anything, does that suggest regarding the prospects for legislative action this session on the kinds of transportation proposals advanced by the LBJ School? Doggett himself said recently: "I don't believe that this state is ready to take initiative, unfortunately, on doing anything about diversifying our transportation." An aide to another key legislator shook her head as she spoke: "I think we'll be old and grey before the State of Texas does anything serious about mass transit."

Land Use

State Representative Fred Agnich, of Dallas, is a seasoned pillar of the legislative establishment — one of those fellows you definitely want on your side if you are serious about pushing a bill through the Capitol grinder. It was thus with considerable interest that we listened to him describe, during the 64th session two years ago, a bill he himself had written to promote what he termed a Texas Land Resource Commission. To us, that smacked of "land-use management," and for a man like Agnich to submit such a bill — to a legislature probably unequalled in the world for its record of enmity toward apparent threats to "private property rights" — was a phenomenon to behold with suspended breath.

Agnich was aware of the seeming peculiarities of his position. He took pains to assure us that it was really a pretty harmless little bill. In fact, it wasn't a "land-use" bill at all. It was merely an attempt to conduct a comprehensive *inven-*

tory of Texas' land resources, with an eye toward zones which might, for one reason or another, be seriously endangered. His reasoning seemed to be that even the most defensive west Texas rancher couldn't object to that. And, in any case, as a final gesture of his good faith, he pointed out that his proposed commission would have just three years in which to complete its inventory, after which it would "automatically self-destruct". How could something which self-destructed be a threat? Well, we thought at the time, it sounds like a good idea, and if anyone can do it, Fred Agnich is the man.

Well, even Fred Agnich couldn't do it. His bill evaporated somewhere in the labyrinth of the State Affairs Committee, and he doesn't intend to try it again.



Agnich: even he couldn't do it.

"Nothing in relation to land-use will pass this session," said an Agnich aide last month, "due to the make-up of the State Affairs Committee and the nature of the House. They go wild when they hear words like 'land-use'."

Gulf Coast Epidemic

One strip of Texas particularly in need of attention is the Gulf Coast, whose problems with pollution, subsidence, hurricane threat and aesthetic disfiguration have reached epidemic proportions (see *Texas Architect*, March/April, 1975). Accordingly, as he did in the last session, Galveston Senator Babe Schwartz will continue his battle in the current session

for a strong enough measure of direct state control over the coastal zone to combat what he views as the perils of heavy-handed commercial, industrial, and residential development. Two of his bills last session were successful (one pertaining to regulation of offshore terminals, another to oil-spill prevention and clean-up), and now he has introduced a proposal (SB 46) "relating to the identification, management, control and use of coastal public land and coastal wetland." This bill appears to have drawn at least in part from the same data and perceived priorities as those contained in a near-encyclopedic study of Texas' "Coastal Management Program" conducted by the State Land Commission.

ICNRE: "No Authority"

Among other things, the study is critical of the Interagency Council on Natural Resources and the Environment (ICNRE) — the closest thing we have in Texas to a coastal protection administration — charging that the Council is "ineffective" for want of "real authority" to assert itself in coastal affairs. The study recommends that ICNRE be "restructured as a policy-level council for reviewing, proposing, and coordinating the state's coastal policies and activities." Council functions would include a continuing program of data collection, resource monitoring, and policy assessment, with specific tasks to include a review of subsidence controls and assumption of responsibility from the Corps of Engineers for "dredge and fill operations" in salt-water zones.

County Zoning Laws

Otherwise, in terms of possible "land-management" initiatives by the 65th Legislature, the only item on the horizon is a bill by Jim Kaster of El Paso "relating to authority of county commissioners courts to enact certain ordinances" (HB51). Aimed principally at controlling irresponsible real estate development outside the building code jurisdictions of Texas cities, this statute would empower county governments to pass and enforce their own zoning and building code laws — provided they were so mandated in an election by county voters. Three or four

variants of this legislation were attempted in the 64th session, and, despite their apparent consistency with the finest Texas "home-rule" traditions, they were all bottled up and defeated.

Lloyd Doggett is among those legislators planning to support the measure this session (he will propose a similar bill tailored specifically for Travis County), but he isn't terribly optimistic. "There will be a lot of opposition," he said, "and if we can't even go this far, think how far we are in Texas from doing anything really meaningful. This is just a very first tentative step toward some of the things we really need to do."

Historic Sites

More and more, as we have been wont to observe in this magazine, the people of Texas have developed an appreciation for the value of those historic structures and sites which form so unique and irreplaceable a part of their cultural heritage. More and more, in the chambers of city government, in local crusades to rescue old buildings, in the proliferation of heritage societies, the people have expressed their desire that further demolition of Texas' historic structures be stopped, that the buildings be restored, adapted for different uses perhaps — but saved as the tangible links to the past which they represent.

Ad Valorem Tax Relief

Such activity requires both fiscal and legal prerequisite, of course, and so the people, through their senators and representatives, will turn to the 65th Legislature for support of their efforts on behalf of historic preservation. In this arena, too, Lloyd Doggett has been active. He passed a bill last session extending from 30 to 90

days the statutory notice that must be given by anyone planning to demolish or remove a structure bearing the famous medallion of the Texas Historical Commission. Now he has proposed a much-needed constitutional amendment (S.J. R.5) providing state and local *ad valorem* tax relief for persons and organizations opting to restore an historic structure. (Current state tax laws often actually penalize such improvements because of the value so added to a given piece of real estate.) The federal government has included a similar provision in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, and there is no reason that Texas could not follow suit. (Studies have shown that tax revenues lost through such exemptions are more than offset by gains in tourist spending and the increased taxable value of real estate adjacent to restored historic structures.)

Latimer Needs Money

The primary agent of state involvement in historic preservation is the Texas Historical Commission, headed by Truett Latimer. We asked him recently what were his own priorities in connection with the 65th Legislature. His answer, for the most part, was money, of which is nowhere near enough in his coffers to fund the many programs for which the Commission is responsible. Such programs range from ongoing historical and archeological surveys to preservation workshops and publications to museum maintenance to distribution of federal grants-in-aid to worthy restoration projects around the state. Among those projects assisted last year were: (1) the 18th century Espanada Aqueduct in San Antonio — \$20,000 for emergency repairs in lieu of permanent restoration; (2) the grand old cattle-baron Scott Home in Fort Worth — \$40,000; (3) the seriously endangered Ursuline Academy in San Antonio (now the Southwest Crafts Center), one of whose units is a rare example of "rammed-earth" architecture — \$20,000; (4) the Fayette County Courthouse, whose original windows were being replaced with *aluminum* frames until the Historical Commission stepped in — \$25,000.

While these and other Commission functions are all to the good, they still fall

shy of what the state could be doing in historic preservation. Consequently, in his current biennial budget request, Latimer is asking for \$250,000 per year to add to federal funds which his Commission is helping to disburse. (It might be noted that recent federal legislation has raised the possibility of very substantial increases in federal matching funds for historic preservation, starting in fiscal 1978. If the state has not released sufficient monies of its own by then, it could be left on the barren side of the federal ledger.)

Thrifty Suggestions

Money isn't everything, of course, even in historic preservation, and Austin architect Wayne Bell, who teaches preservation design to architectural students at UT/Austin, had a number of suggestions for the 65th Legislature that wouldn't much damage the treasury. One pertains to the State Antiquities Committee, a very important "watchdog" element in the protection of historic sites. The existence of

that Committee has now been jeopardized by a suit in the Texas Supreme Court based on the alleged "vagueness" of language in the statute which established the Committee. For starters, the legislature might clarify the language in that statute and assure the survival of the Committee regardless of the Supreme Court's decision.

Other of Bell's suggestions include: (1) jurisdictional consolidation of all the state's historic sites under one agency (instead of the present three or four), probably the Historical Commission; (2) creation of a state "emergency fund" to extend short-term protection to critically threatened sites like the Espanada Aqueduct and the Indian pictographs in Val Verde County; (3) a special program of continuing education for museum personnel and teachers of Texas history; (4) some form of special licensing for those architects wishing to conduct the highly specialized work of restoration on state historical landmarks.

Architects' Registration



TSA's Des Taylor addresses a committee of the 64th Legislature.

Texas still needs, as it has for decades, a meaningful architects' registration law. The current law is a "title" law (among the 13 weakest in the nation) permitting an unlicensed designer to produce construction plans which may and often do exceed his or her mastery of the art and science of architecture — so long as said designer does not claim formally to be an "architect." What is required is a "practice" law which sets specific limits on the types of design projects available to an unlicensed designer regardless of what one calls oneself. Only thus will the public be protected from unsound or tasteless design, the architect from a form of unfair competition. (How would your average doctor feel, after committing six or seven

“The state’s architects may this year find themselves embroiled in the same battle that many of the nation’s doctors are fighting . . .”

years of his life to professional training and certification, to be confronted by a fellow across the street who sells Cancer and Heart Attack Prevention Pills and isn’t arrested for it?)

A “practice” law was in fact proposed to the 64th Legislature (HB 432), passed the Senate, but failed in the House by eight votes. So the struggle continues, led as before by prominent state architects under the aegis of the Texas Architects Committee (TAC), the political action arm of the Texas Society of Architects (TSA). “We will use whatever opportunities the 65th Legislature affords us,” said TSA executive director Des Taylor, “to impress upon the legislators the need for a stronger law. However, I doubt that we will support a specific registration measure this session.” Meanwhile, registered architects and their supporters are being urged to carry the struggle personally to senators and representatives from their own local districts. “Phonecalls, letters, donations to TAC — any contribution of money or time will help,” said Taylor. He added that some of the funds voluntarily contributed to TAC last year had the very real effect of helping to elect a number of state legislators aware of the architects’ licensing dilemma.

In addition to campaigning for a better registration law, the state’s architects may this year find themselves embroiled for the first time in the same battle that many of the nation’s doctors are fighting: the battle against outrageous malpractice suits and consequently outrageous increases in the cost of malpractice or liability insurance. This plague has also been visited of late upon dentists, chiropractors, engineers, and other professionals. It is not surprising, therefore, that at least one bill of relief has already been prefiled for consideration by the 65th Legislature. It is HB 138, by Representative Abraham Ribak of San Antonio, and its major provisions include (1) the establishment of a Professional Liability Board, appointed by the governor, to screen all liability claims before they go to court; (2) a two-year statute of limitations on such claims; (3) a ceiling of \$100,000 on any claim not involving “economic loss”; (4) a limitation of plaintiffs’ attorneys’ fees to 25% of the claim being made.

January/February 1977



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The jury will be composed of distinguished architects from outside the Houston area. Judging will be based solely on submitted material to maintain anonymity. The awards are endorsed by the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture.

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If you haven't received your entry invitation to this momentous awards presentation in the mail by January 30, 1977, please call Gregg Borchelt at the number below.

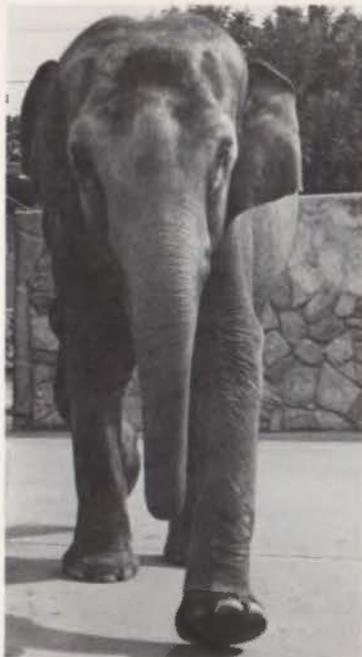
Entry forms and total registration fee must be received by February 14, 1977.



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George the Hippo, and friends



ZOO STORY

By Larry Paul Fuller

George the Hippo and all his friends can rest easy now — the Centex Zoo has been saved.

Several months ago, George and some 400 other mammals, birds and reptiles faced the very real threat of being ousted from their countryside home 18 miles west of Waco. But, as if the crisis were an episode from a Hollywood script, along to the rescue came a man named Billy Jack. Actually, architectural intern Billy Jack Greaves wouldn't claim all the credit for himself — lots of folks pitched in to save the zoo. But Billy Jack plays a big role in the story. And to George the Hippo and all his friends, he's something of a hero.

The zoo, owned and operated jointly by the City of Waco and the Central Texas Zoological Society, has been home for animals like George, and an attraction for visitors from a seven-county area, since 1955. Though not a large zoo, it has managed to build a respectable collection of animals, including several specimens of

endangered species, and it attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually. It offers lectures and educational films, admitting free some 15,000 students each year. And it cooperates with universities and larger zoos in research and breeding experimentation.

Despite the zoo's relative success over the years, funding — even for basic operation, and particularly for new facilities — has always been a problem. But the problem became a crisis when, in 1975, the U.S. Department of Agriculture declared that the zoo's kitchen-clinic facility was substandard under terms of the Animal Welfare Act and must be replaced. Indeed, the old facility had outlived its usefulness. A project of the Waco Rotary Club in the 1950s, it had been difficult to maintain in recent years and had become run-down, rat-infested and unsanitary. But there simply were not enough dollars in the budget to undertake construction of a new \$40,000 facility,



TOP, RIGHT: rendering of new facility, viewed from north. ABOVE and BELOW: construction underway. BELOW, RIGHT: Billy Jack Greaves, right, discusses construction progress with Zoo Director Tim Jones.

and special fund-raising efforts were faltering. So, in May of 1976, the USDA issued a cage-rattling ultimatum: obtain funding for a new structure by July 1, and begin construction by September 1, or close down the zoo. George the Hippo and all his friends would have been without a home. Waco area residents would have been without a zoo. And all the animals would have been shipped away, never to return.

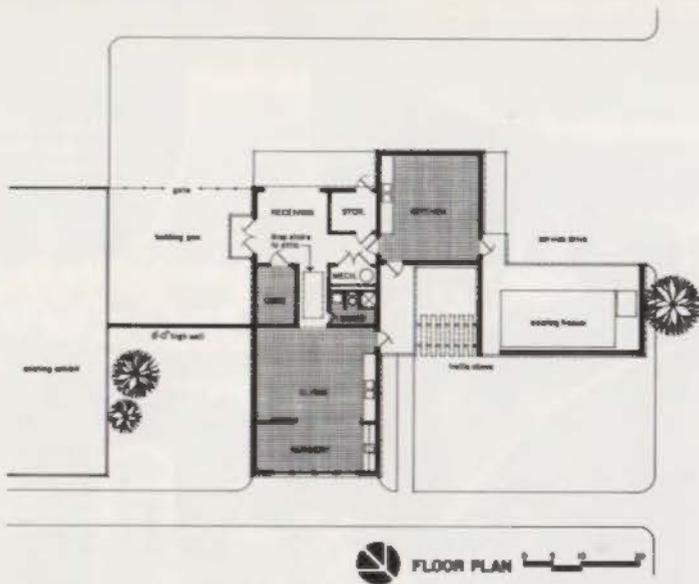
Unwilling to give up without a struggle, zoo board members stepped up fund-raising efforts and began contacting businesses, civic groups and service clubs. It seemed that widespread support existed, but the dollars still weren't coming in fast enough. Then the board contacted the Waco Jaycees, and the dismal picture began to brighten. Member Billy Jack Greaves, an associate of now deceased architect N. E. Wiedemann, offered to donate his services for the design of the new kitchen-clinic and to observe its construction. He projected that if similar donations — time, energy and perhaps some building materials — could be secured from other Jaycees, the original construction cost estimate of

\$40,000 could be trimmed by as much as \$15,000.

On faith that the new goal of \$25,000 could be achieved by the July 1 deadline, Billy Jack set about reviewing USDA guidelines and formulating design ideas. "I planned to do the work at night and on weekends," he said, "but Mr. Wiedemann was generous enough to let me work on the project during regular office hours, and that helped us a lot."

By June 3, Greaves had ready for presentation a design concept which acknowledged both the limitations imposed by donated materials and labor, and the need for the structure to be aesthetically pleasing, yet functional by USDA standards. The 1800 square-foot structure, of simple concrete block construction, would contain a kitchen for animal food preparation, a clinic with an operating table and x-ray equipment, a staff area, storage space and a nursery with a large viewing window. An adjoining structure would conceal a large, unsightly, but still usable, freezer. With immediate approval of the design by the zoo board, Greaves and fellow Jaycee Jim Bush, of Bush Building Corporation, began





soliciting donations of materials and labor.

Meanwhile, the zoo board intensified its fund-raising campaign, capitalizing on the Jaycees' offer of support. Greaves built a scale model of the facility which was put on display to show prospective donors where their money would be going. And the dollars came tumbling in. With the plans complete and the final construction estimate set at \$27,500, the building fund total soon had reached some \$45,000 — enough for the new kitchen-clinic plus a general face lift for the zoo.

Recently hired zoo director Tim Jones, who believed strongly enough in the zoo's potential to accept the job even before its continuation could be assured, is gratified by the community response. "We are thrilled with the way area residents and organizations have rallied to our support," he said. "The money has come in the form of individual and group donations, and as proceeds from some really imaginative community fund-raising events — everything from bike-athons to turtle races.

"Through this building project, this attempt to upgrade what we have, we are

gaining a lot more than a nice new facility. We are gaining the respect and support of the community. Now people are referring to it as *their* zoo."

As for Billy Jack Greaves, he's delighted that construction is near completion. The 1974 graduate of Texas Tech still must complete seven more months of internship before taking the professional exam that will certify him as an architect, a goal he has had since grade school. But already he has taken a major part in projects of the Wiedemann firm, and is happy to call the zoo project his own. Behind all his efforts in behalf of the zoo is the simple fact that, as his wife Mary puts it, "Billy Jack eats, sleeps and dreams architecture." But he also wanted to preserve his reputation as a person who gets things done. "It's very satisfying," he says, "to realize that something needed doing, and we went out and did it — we saved the Centex Zoo."

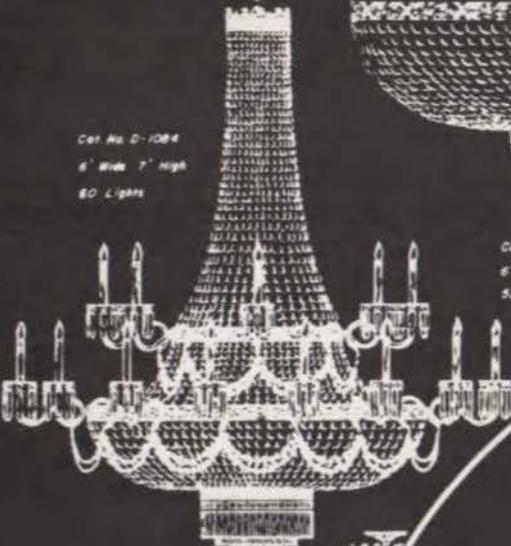
And as for George the Hippo and all his friends, well, they're not talking. But, in their own way, they're sure to appreciate better care from the clinic, better food from the kitchen, and a man named Billy Jack.



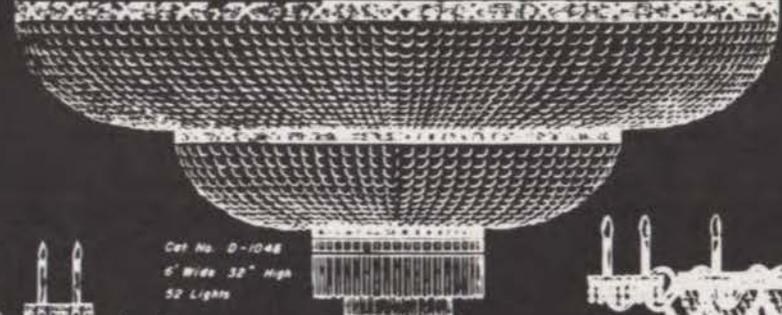
ABOVE: Happy Hippo George. BELOW, LEFT: view from west, with opening for nursery at far right.



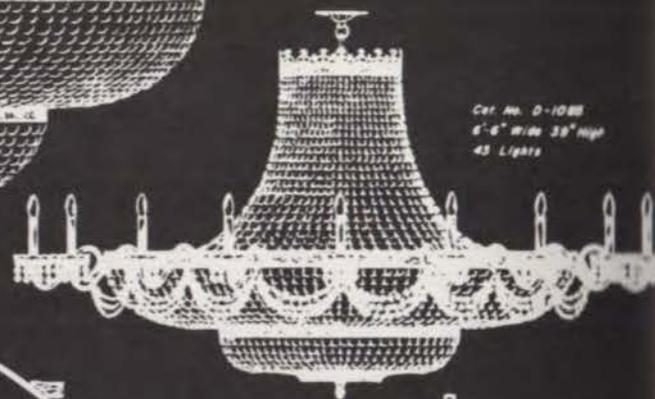
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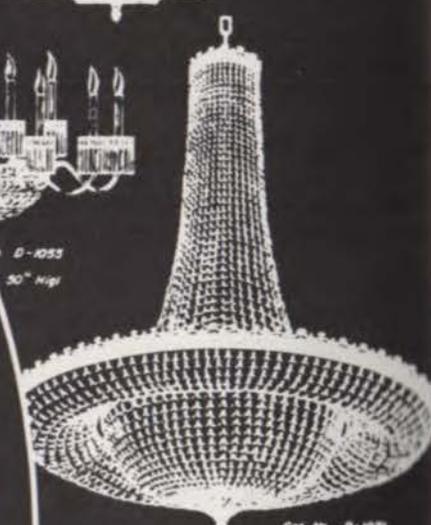
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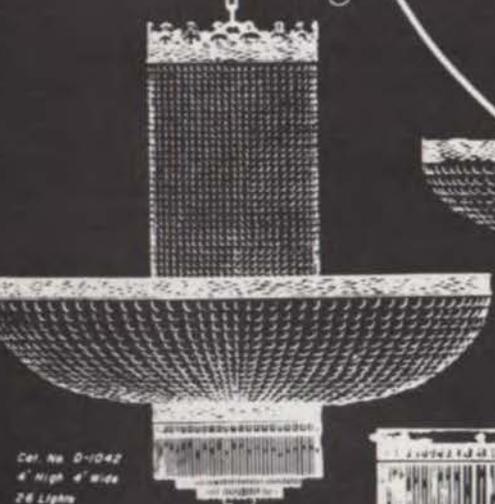
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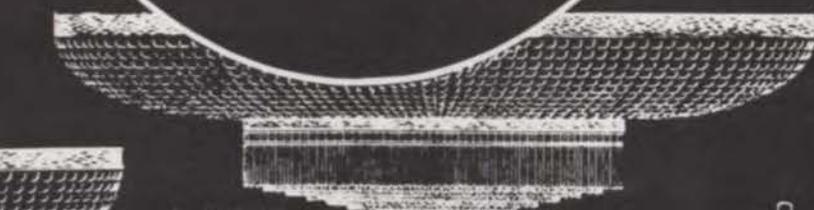


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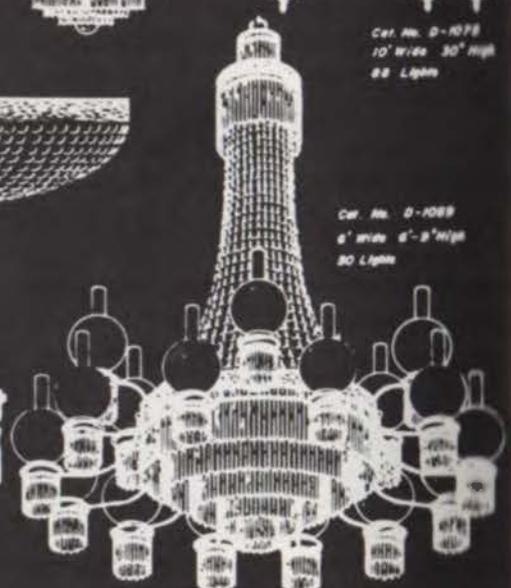


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TALES OF A WEST TEXAS ARCHITECT

By Woodlief Brown, AIA

If the practice of architecture in West Texas is unique, it must have something to do with all this territory we architects have to cover . . . which, in itself, seems to produce a unique breed of client. What with all the wide open space separating cities and towns (I've worked with school districts of up to 860 square miles), folks tend to be independent and perhaps a bit individualistic. So, the problems confronting architects out here include quite a few we never talked about in architecture classes. But West Texas people being generally very friendly and good to work with, we try to shoulder up to the responsibility of providing a complete architectural service, whatever that might entail.

A few years ago I was employed to design a new school building for a beautiful and historic little community with the good ole West Texas name of Buffalo Gap. The building site would thrill any architect; the whole picturesque setting was one of mellow old buildings scattered among magnificent live oak trees — all in a gap between red and green hills. But these folks had a rather unusual problem to contend with: what to do with that 85-foot Atlas missile lying out there on the playground. It had seemed like a good idea to accept the missile from the government; after all, it was free. But now that they had it, no one could quite

figure out what it was good for. It certainly didn't make good playground equipment. And some of the remarks people were beginning to make about that missile on the school playground were getting to be quite embarrassing.

Someone suggested standing it up on end and pointing it toward the sky, so people for miles around could locate Buffalo Gap. Now, that was an inspired idea that had real merit, but a suitable foundation would have been too costly. Then, on deciding to dispose of it, they found there just wasn't any demand for old missiles. As a last resort, they considered cutting it up for scrap metal, but it would have cost more to cut it up than the metal was worth.



Abilene architect Woodlief Brown has been a prominent part of the West Texas architectural scene for some 28 years. He helped establish TSA's West Texas and Abilene Chapters and later served as a vice president of TSA.

At this point of complete frustration, a solution was found. The missile was sold, at an undisclosed price, to be divided into sections and placed underground for fallout shelters. The Board members then were very, very happy. They had gotten the blamed thing off their hands and, well, it just seemed like an appropriate thing to do with an old Atlas missile.



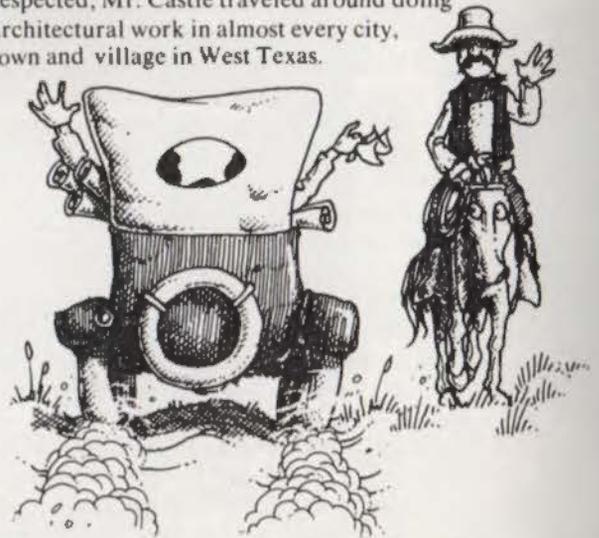
The Civil Defense Administration was urging all citizens to build atomic fallout shelters back in those days or, at the very least, to pick out a good place to jump into. But since no bombs were falling, people lapsed into a ho-hum attitude about building shelters. Ironically, the only ones who really did anything about being prepared for atomic bombs were those who were way-the-heck out in the sand dunes anyway.

One small West Texas town decided to build an underground school. It would provide protection from atomic fallout or tornadoes and would be less susceptible to the ever-present West Texas dust. (Incidentally, this is not Aspermont High School, the partly underground building for which I was the architect, or I probably wouldn't be talking about it. The architect on this one is — or was — a friend of mine.) The completed school was a plain rectangular structure almost completely surrounded by bermed earth fill sloping up gently to the level of the tar and gravel roof. Nothing of the building showed except for a pair of concrete stairs going down into the structure at one end.



Not long after the building was complete, the architect was disturbed to receive an indignant letter from the school board stating that the roof leaked and continued to leak, and that they would file suit. After high-tailing it to the school, the architect looked around, and on seeing some strange indentations on the roof, took a few pictures for evidence and returned to consult his lawyer. In his reply to the school board, the architect said he would assume no responsibility in connection with a leaking roof when the owner had been driving a tractor over it.

Indeed, there are plenty of tractors out here, but the mainstay of the West Texas architect has long been the automobile. The traveling way of life was pioneered by a few rugged individuals such as the late David S. Castle, Sr., a salty old gentleman and a good architect who began his practice in Abilene around 1913. His trail blazing was done on dirt roads in a Model T Ford. In his earlier days, he would load drawings, camping gear and family into the "flivver" and set out for a job, camping along the way. Able, aggressive and well respected, Mr. Castle traveled around doing architectural work in almost every city, town and village in West Texas.





Before the oil boom of the 1950s brought a stampede of ambitious young architects to these parts, there weren't many of us around. So we were accustomed to jumping in the car and driving several hundred miles at the prospect of work. One somewhat typical day my friend, architect Bill Collier, and I drove out to Pecos (about half way between Abilene and El Paso, which are some 460 miles apart) after receiving a call about designing a new office building. An architect from El Paso had also been contacted but failed to show up for the interview, poor fellow. So, man did we ever land that job! But what we soon discovered was that "new office building" actually meant "minor remodeling." Oh well, profit isn't *everything*. In fact, sometimes it isn't *anything*. At least they were mighty nice folks to deal with.

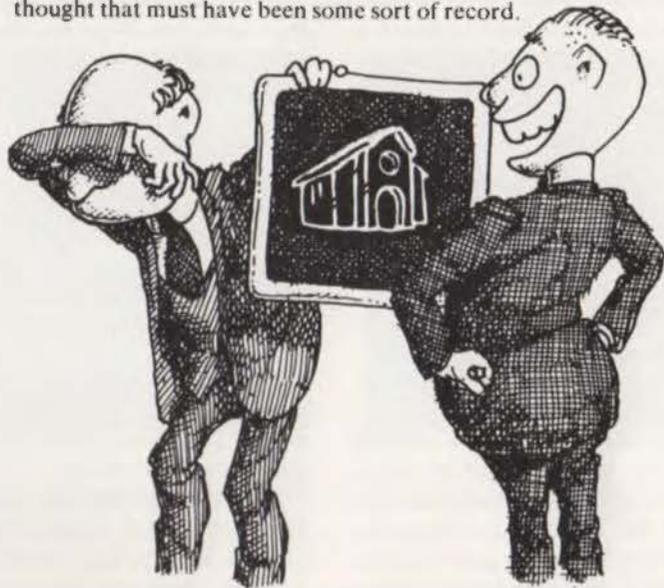
On another occasion, Bill and I had driven some 200 miles one Sunday to make a presentation to the building committee of a small-town church. That was back in 1948 when the average layman still thought of a church building in terms of Pseudo-Gothic, Pseudo-Romanesque or Greek-Revival. We spent a lot of time in those days arguing for contemporary design as the logical approach, but, for the most part, succeeded only in bolstering our own lonely convictions. For this particular presentation we had some preliminary drawings on which a brand new college graduate, impatient to enlighten the world, had let his imagination run wild. The drawings were pretty good but, to help make sure the trip wouldn't be wasted, we had taken the precaution of being able to fall back on a more conservative, though still contemporary, solution.

After the presentation, the committee's reaction was one I have witnessed in such situations many times: they sat and they looked and they thought for a long, long time without anyone saying a word. Meanwhile, we architects didn't know whether we were winning or losing. Finally, one old gentleman who appeared to be the patriarch of the group stood up and bluntly said that our proposed building looked like a motel instead of a church. Ready for them, we smiled and, with a bit of a flourish, brought out the sketches of the alternate solution. With less delay, but with equal bluntness, the committee spokesman said the alternate looked like a beach house. Actually, I doubt the old gent had ever been that far away from home. But, anyway, the committee agreed with him to a man.

It finally filtered through to Bill and me that we were

fired and just hadn't been told yet. It was also plain enough that while defending contemporary architecture was noble, up to a point, this was a case of being live cowards or dead heroes. We could ill afford to lose the job or the fee either. So, out of desperation, I took a piece of chalk and began drawing a building on a blackboard. What I drew, more or less, was a church building in West Texas Romanesque. And with each stroke the committee brightened up as if I were pouring water on a wilted plant. With our position appearing to be less precarious, we went home and left it with them.

The next morning Bill got a call from the now delighted building committee chairman who said they had shown the blackboard to the congregation at the evening service and approval was unanimous — proceed at once with plans and specifications. Collier thought that must have been some sort of record.



As you might expect, West Texas has changed a lot in recent years, and continues to change rapidly. Folks seem to be a little more sophisticated these days, less provincial than they once were. The practice of architecture has also changed a lot from what it was in "the good ole days." But it continues to be fascinating, and the rewards come in many ways. Take, for example, the time I designed a school in Tuscola. Following the project's completion I was thumbing through a copy of their school yearbook, *The Warrior*. And what did I find but a picture of myself — full page — as the architect of Jim Ned High. Now that's gratitude for you. And it's also West Texas.

SCHOOLS ARCHITECTURE: FIVE WINNING DESIGNS

Some 4,500 officials representing nearly every city and hamlet in Texas gathered in San Antonio September 25-27 for the Texas School Administrators and School Boards Joint Annual Convention. As in past years, conventioners attended seminars, business sessions, a party here and there, and the product exhibition—an assortment of everything from pencils to buses. And as in the past fourteen years, a major attraction of the convention was the exhibition of outstanding school architecture, sponsored jointly by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and the Texas Society of Architects (TSA).

Design considerations have changed a lot since the first exhibit in 1962, when getting the schools airconditioned was a primary concern. But school officials, through the years, always have seen the exhibition as a unique opportunity to monitor how Texas architects are dealing with change—such considerations as new educational philosophies, advanced teaching techniques and classroom equipment, unstable population patterns, rising costs and shortages in energy and materials.

This year, out of 40 entries submitted by 26 Texas architectural firms, 31 exemplary school facility projects were selected for display. The jury consisted of representatives from TASB, TASA and the TSA Architecture for Education Committee. Judging was based on three general areas of consideration: the architectural solution itself, how well the solution reflected the academic program and the quality of presentation materials.

On the following pages are described the five projects from the exhibition which were selected by the jury for special recognition in the form of citations of excellence. Listed below are the remaining 26 projects selected for display:

Stephen F. Austin High School, Austin, Austin ISD; Jack Davidson, Supt.; Barnes Landes Goodman & Youngblood, Austin.

Barbers Hill Elementary School, Mont Belvieu, Barbers Hill ISD; Bill Farmer, Supt.; John Perry Associates, Houston.

Herman A. Barnett Athletic Complex, Houston, Houston ISD; Billy Reagan, Supt.; McKittrick Drennan Richardson & Wallace, Houston.

A. J. Briesemeister Middle School, Seguin, Seguin ISD; Jim Barnes, Supt.; Jessen Associates, Inc., Architects & Planners, Austin.

Carrizo Springs High School, Carrizo Springs, Carrizo Springs ISD; Harold King, Supt.; Swanson Hiester Wilson & Claycomb, Dallas.

Dayton High School, Dayton, Dayton ISD; Kenneth Almond, Supt.; Denny & Ray Architects-Planners, Houston.

Fodrea Community School, Columbus, Indiana, Bartholomew Consolidated Schools; Clarence Robbins, Supt.; Caudill Rowlett Scott, Houston.

Grapevine Education Center, Grapevine, Grapevine ISD; Roy Hartman, Supt.; Hueppelsheuser Darrow, Inc., Architects, Fort Worth.

Greenhill Middle School, Addison; Bernard Fulton, Headmaster; Pratt, Box, Henderson & Partners, Dallas.

Hedrick Elementary Middle School, Lewisville, Lewisville ISD; Leo Stuver, Supt., Hueppelsheuser Darrow, Inc., Architects, Fort Worth.

Hill Country Middle School, Austin, Eanes ISD; Don Rogers, Supt.; Brasher Goyette Rapier, Inc., Austin.

F. W. Jackson Elementary School, Plano, Plano ISD; H. Wayne Hendrick, Supt.; Corgan Associates, Inc., Architects & Engineers, Dallas.

Lago Vista High School, Lago Vista Common School District; F. W. Horton, Supt.; Jim Faulk, Architect-Associates, Austin.

La Joya High School, La Joya, La Joya ISD; Leopoldo Valdez, Supt.; Swanson Hiester Wilson & Claycomb, Harlingen Office.

Robert E. Lee Elementary School, Eagle Pass, Eagle Pass ISD; Jesus Gomez,

Supt.; Edward R. Gondeck & Thomas E. Bartholomew, Architects, San Antonio.

Maple Hill School, Hackensack, New Jersey; Carl E. Padavano, Headmaster; Caudill Rowlett Scott, Houston.

Midway High School, Waco, Waco ISD; D. Kenneth McGee, Supt.; Swanson Hiester Wilson & Claycomb, Dallas.

Northbrook Junior High School, Houston, Spring Branch ISD; Leo Bradley, Supt.; The Klein Partnership, Inc., Houston.

Pflugerville High School, Pflugerville, Pflugerville ISD; Kermit Heimann, Supt.; Barnes Landes Goodman & Youngblood, Austin.

Pine Bluff High School, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Pine Bluff Public Schools; Roy Scoggins, Supt.; Caudill Rowlett Scott, Houston.

Smithson Valley High School, Comal County Texas, Comal ISD; James Richardson, Supt.; Architects Environmental Group, Inc., San Antonio.

St. Thomas High School Learning Center, Houston, James J. Gaunt, C.S.B.; Bernard Johnson, Inc., Houston.

Texas City High School Career Center, Texas City, Texas City ISD; Paul Manning, Supt.; Reed & Clements, Architects, & Planners, Texas City.

Van Vleck Elementary School, Van Vleck, Van Vleck, ISD; Roy Stockstill, Supt.; Simmons, Cavitt, McKnight & Weymouth, Houston.

Woodland Hills Elementary School, Humble, Humble ISD; George Turner, Supt.; Nix, Spencer, Herolz & Durham Inc., Houston.

Yeager Elementary School, Houston, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD; Joe Harper, Supt.; Koetter Tharp Cowell & Barlett, Architects & Planners, Inc., Houston.

The 1976 TSA Architecture for Education Committee consisted of Chairman Eugene McKee, Austin, and members James Foster, San Antonio; Tom McKittrick, Houston; Morris Parker, Fort Worth; and Glenn Rucker, Temple.

Dulles Elementary, Stafford

Elia J. Hickman
Elementary
Stafford

Owner: Fort Bend ISD

Superintendent: Lawrence E. Elkins, Jr.

Architect: McKittrick, Drennan, Richardson,
Wallace, Houston

Consultants:

*Structural—Walter P. Moore & Associates,
Houston*

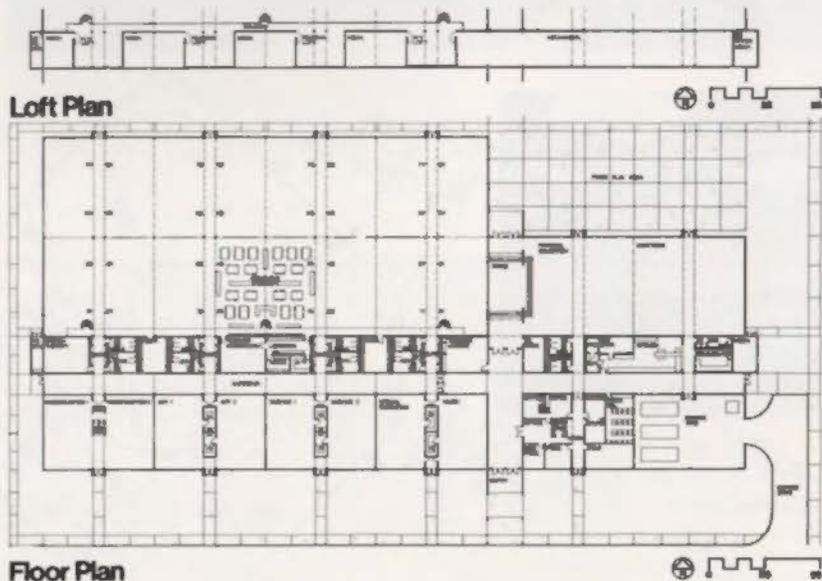
*Mechanical—Thomas John Engineering,
Houston*

Contractor: Maycon, Inc.; Houston

Completed: January 1976

Accommodating 1000 students in kindergarten through 5th grade, this facility is divided by its entry corridors and a two-story spine into four zones: the open teaching area of 28 stations organized around a resource center, cafeteria/physical education, closed classrooms—for kindergarten, art, music, science and special education—and administration.

Primary circulation takes place from a corridor parallel and adjacent to the spine. Closed classrooms and administration open directly into the corridor. Openings through the spine on the first floor provide circulation from the corridor to the open teaching stations and cafeteria/PE area, while also providing coat and lunch storage and access to ancillary facilities such as toilets, kitchen serving line and drinking fountains. The second story of the spine accommodates mechanical equipment and provides loft space for audio-visual and reading areas overlooking the open teaching stations.



Ella L. Hickman Elementary, Garland

Owner: Garland ISD

Superintendent: Dr. Eli Douglas

Architect: Gene Hildinger & Associates,

Dallas

Consultants:

Structural—James L. Mitchell, Inc.; Dallas

Mechanical—Magill-Cloyd, Engineers, Inc.;

Dallas

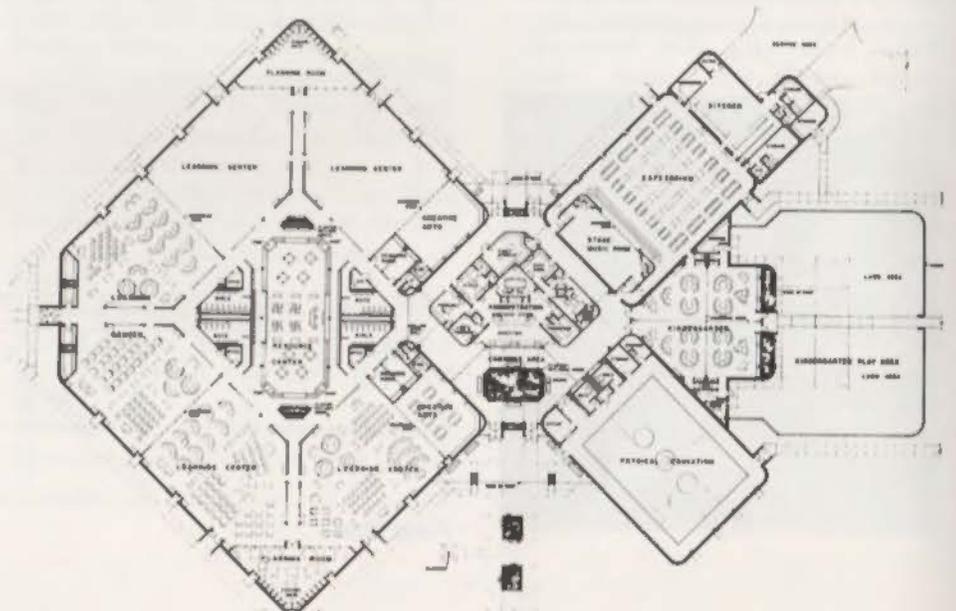
Contractor: Plano Construction Co.,

Richardson

Completed: February 1976

This facility for 800 students in kindergarten through 5th grade consists of an open plan learning center, a cafetorium, a kindergarten area and a PE facility—all as individual buildings grouped around and defining a hub. The hub, from which all other areas are readily accessible, consists of an administrative complex and a commons which serves as a display center and sheltered gathering place.

The learning center, for grades 1-5, can be divided through use of accordion doors into five separate areas organized around a sunken resource center. The learning center also includes two creative arts areas, resource rooms, and two teachers' planning rooms with unobstructed views of all teaching areas. The kindergarten facility has its own fenced play area, child delivery and pick-up area and direct access to the cafetorium. Both the cafetorium and the physical education facility are open for use by the community.



Sam Houston Junior High, Irving

Owner: Irving ISD

Superintendent: Dr. John F. Townley

Architect: Grogan / Scoggins / Associates, Irving

Consultants:

Structural—Chester Reed, Dallas

Mechanical—Koegel-Cash & Associates, Dallas

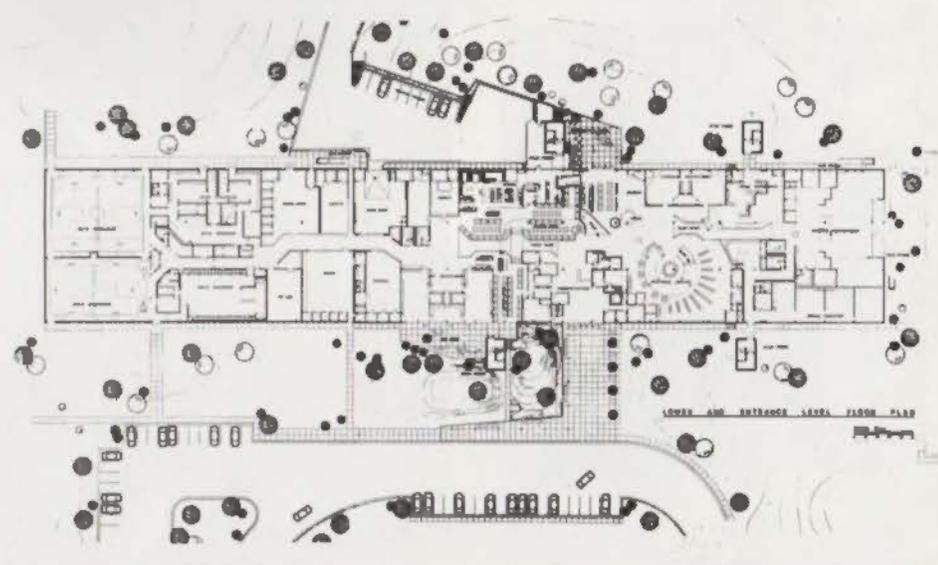
Acoustics—Joiner-Pelton-Rose, Inc.; Dallas

Contractor: Ground Construction Co., Dallas

Completed: June 1976

Energy and excitement compatible with the social and psychological characteristics of 6th through 8th grade students are translated into the design of this open plan facility for 1200 pupils. Circulation through the building is achieved by ramps creating gradually changing levels of function. Team teaching and the open plan environment encourage the students' awareness of the entire spectrum of surrounding educational activities. Additional stimuli of color, graphics, vegetation and natural light contribute to the lively atmosphere and help define the relationships of the various disciplines and spaces.

With a single hill dominating the terrain, the building was sited so that entrances are at the crest of the hill and floor levels extend down the slope in each direction. The original natural features of coastal bermuda grass and low-profile mesquite trees were left basically undisturbed, providing areas for outdoor instruction.



Sugar Land Junior High, Sugar Land

Owner: Fort Bend ISD

Superintendent: Lawrence E. Elkins, Jr.

Architect: Simmons Cavitt McKnight
Weymouth, Houston

Consultants:

Structural— Walter P. Moore & Associates,
Houston

Mechanical— Thomas John Engineering,
Houston

Food Facilities— W. B. Holmes & Associates,
Houston

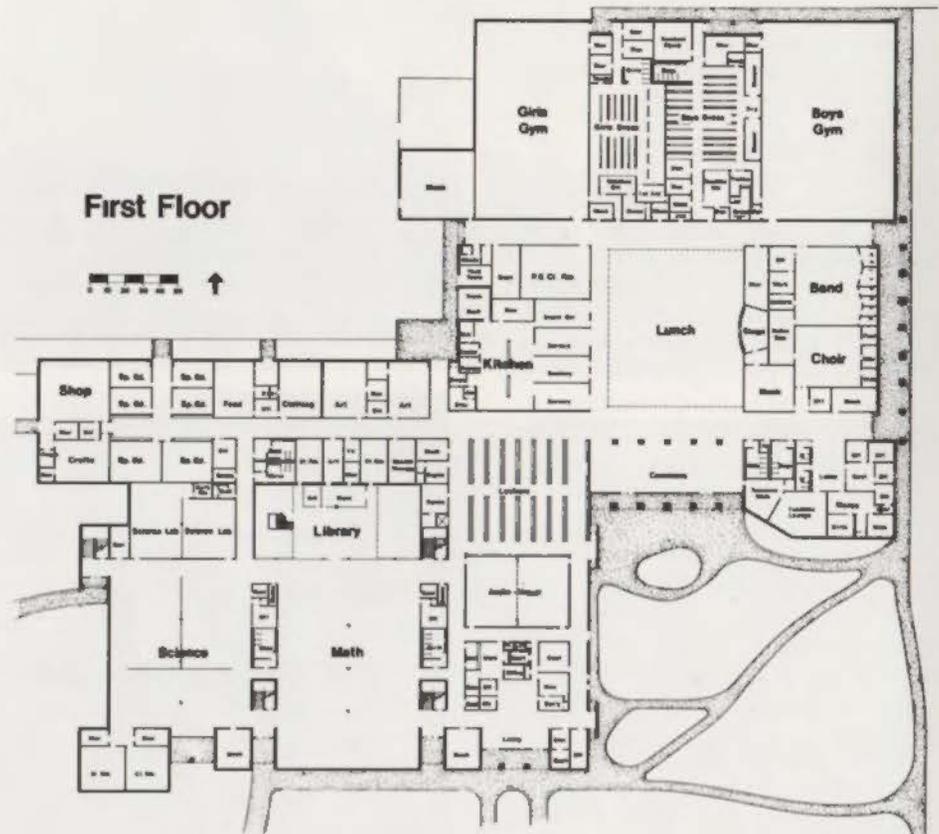
Contractor: Scheffe Construction Co., Houston

Completed: September 1975

Accommodating 1,800 pupils on a small suburban site, this two-level structure provides open areas for major subjects, with emphasis on the library as a learning resource. Activity areas are grouped into two hubs linked by the student locker area and administrative offices.

The academic hub consists of the five major curriculum departments — each of which is provided a closed space option — grouped around the two-level library which forms a visual link between the two floors. Open areas are separated by departmental offices, open stairs and toilets. The commons hub provides dining and storage facilities for school and community use, a staging area for buses, and a lobby for athletics.

As a conservation measure, glass was used only at circulation or gathering areas and is deeply recessed. Existing trees were preserved in groves, with walkways routed around them wherever possible.



Photos by Richard Payne



Paul Taylor Field House, San Antonio

Owner: Northside ISD, San Antonio

Superintendent: Edmund Cody

Architect: Marmon & Mok Associates, San Antonio

Consultants:

Structural—Reynolds, Ikels & Co., San Antonio

Mechanical—Marmon & Mok Associates, San Antonio

Electrical—Silber & Associates, San Antonio

Civil—Phennig & Weyman, San Antonio

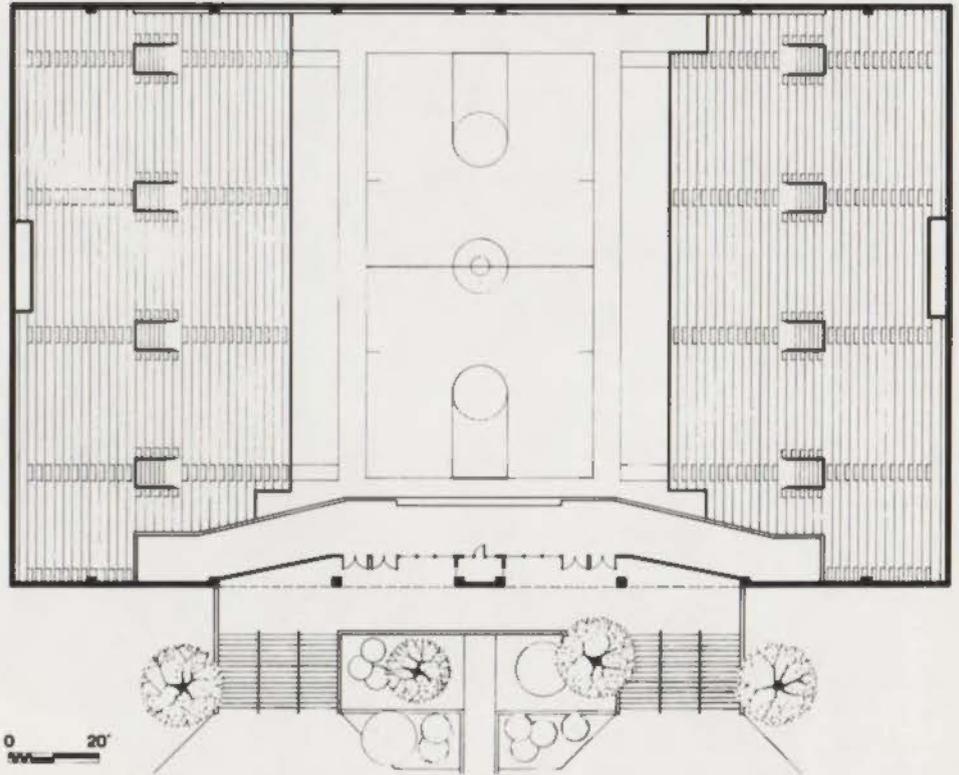
Contractor: F.A. Nunnally, San Antonio, Phase I; Clyde Abbott, Inc., San Antonio, Phase II

Completed: Phase I—October 1973;

Phase II—April 1975

To continue the development of its athletic complex, the district required a field house with a seating capacity of 4,200 capable of being expanded to 7,000.

A bold form results from the arrangement of internal spaces. The sunken court adds emphasis to the main entry and provides light for the athletic offices. Access to seating is facilitated by lowering the playing court below grade and using the excavated earth to create a berm.

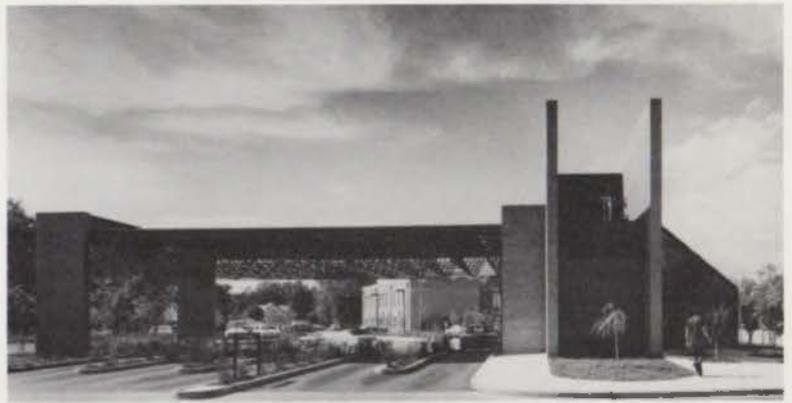


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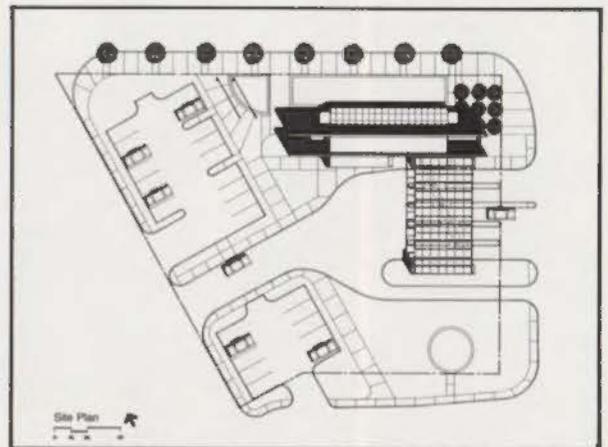


Photos by Balthezar Korab

A Bank for Homefolks

Here was a project with everything going for it — a town with a taste for quality architecture, a client willing to innovate, and architects famous for doing just that — everything but money. This was to be a small branch banking center for the Irwin Union Bank and Trust Company of Columbus, Indiana, and the budget ceiling was just over \$400,000. What would that buy in the way of a combination walk-in/drive-through facility of which the bank, its customers and community could be proud?

From Caudill Rowlett Scott, of Houston, with Paul Kennon the lead designer, the budget bought a design solution which has won the firm an award. Kennon assembled a planning team that included not only bankers and architects but users of the bank as well. Surveys were conducted. Brainstorms crackled. And goals emerged: let's have a bank that is visually open, instead of closed.



Emphasize accessibility, community, people working with people.

Bank chairman Irwin J. Miller wanted in particular to eliminate the sense of physical separation which usually exists between customer and teller on opposite sides of a massive counter. The design team built a full-scale mock-up of a teller's booth to evolve at length an "invisible" counter of glass and stainless steel which avoids the "guardhouse" illusion while providing the security required.

This same inventiveness attended the rest of the bank's design. To achieve an image larger than the bank itself, for example, Kennon sandwiched the core of the facility between a pair of "oversized" parallel walls. Then he "penetrated" both these walls — through the front with a lobby entirely of glass, through the rear with a drive-up teller's booth looking out on five lanes equipped with pneumatic

service units. (These lanes are sheltered by a bronze-tinted skylight affixed to a Unistrut support grid.) Says Kennon: "The greenhouse-like extension of the lobby gives the bank a sense of transparency and expansiveness. The view from the lobby brings the outside in; the view from the street brings the inside out."

To enhance still further the desired effect of intimacy and warmth, the architects made a liberal use of bright colors and "traditional" wood and brick materials throughout the bank's interior. They also opted for an old-fashioned vault door recycled from a 19th century bank (plenty of dials and gadgets) set against a mirrored wall. And finally, with that one eye trained on the community again, the design team arranged for a generous portion of the site exterior to be landscaped as a mini-park and play area.

It's a bank for home folks, and it shows.
— RR



Paul Kennon of CRS.

Architects: Caudill Rowlett Scott, Houston.
Contractor: Frederick Quinn Construction Company, Arlington Heights, Illinois.



Laughter Is Its Own Reward

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We've decided to liven up the magazine with "arkitect" jokes and cartoons which we hope to attract from our readers. If you've heard a good one lately, or if you or someone you know has drawn a cartoon or even a piece of office graffiti, send it in to us. We'll pay you \$5 for every joke and \$20 for every cartoon or drawing we print, and we'll return the ones we don't use. (Jokes about *clients* of architects are okay too. Also jokes and cartoons about students, buildings, energy, transportation, government — your imagination is the limit.) Mail submissions to Humor Editor, *Texas Architect* Magazine, 800 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas 78701.

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Photo by Ed Stewart



Photos by Rob Meier

Freeways and Airwaves

Big city freeways and broadcasting studios don't ordinarily mix. If they're too close together, your favorite local talk show or weather report is likely to be marred by the roar of Peterbuilts passing outside. On the other hand, freeway locations offer a visibility and urban proximity which most owners of corporate buildings desire.

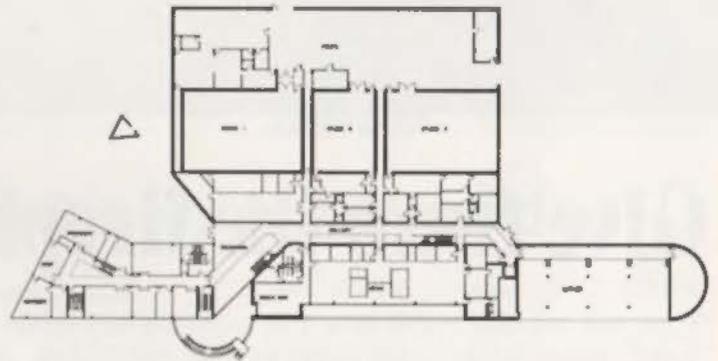
So it was that Houston's KPRC Radio/TV (Channel Two Communications Co.), seeking a new office and studio facility, submitted to its architects a site that fronted on Houston's Southwest Freeway — and asked the architects to make it not only attractive but soundproof. (The resulting TSA Design Award was presented to the Houston firm of S. I. Morris Associates, but the building was commissioned and completed under the firm name Wilson, Morris, Crain and Anderson.)

The problem of soundproofing was solved by a combination of adept orientation of the building, judicious

space planning, and very hefty structural engineering (as evidenced partly by the walls of concrete, both massive and graceful, lining the sound-critical areas of the building). The studios within those walls were further distanced from the freeway by a space plan which wrapped them in corridors, prop rooms, and mechanical zones. Evidently the combination worked: in subsequent broadcasting from the studios (a total of 41,000 square feet), alien sound has been held consistently to zero.

Another distinctive feature of the building is a domed, skylighted circulation gallery joining the studios to staff and executive offices, reception area, and amenities. At one point, in fact, where it crosses over the reception vestibule, this gallery becomes a kind of interior skyway, offering views in all directions.

So the broadcasting client beat the freeway rap, and the architect won an award. — RR



Architects: S.I. Morris Associates (project commissioned and completed under the firm name Wilson, Morris, Crain and Anderson).

Structural Engineers: Walter P. Moore and Associates, Inc., Houston.

Consulting Engineers: Timmerman Engineers, Inc., Houston.

General Contractor: W.S. Bellows Construction Corporation.



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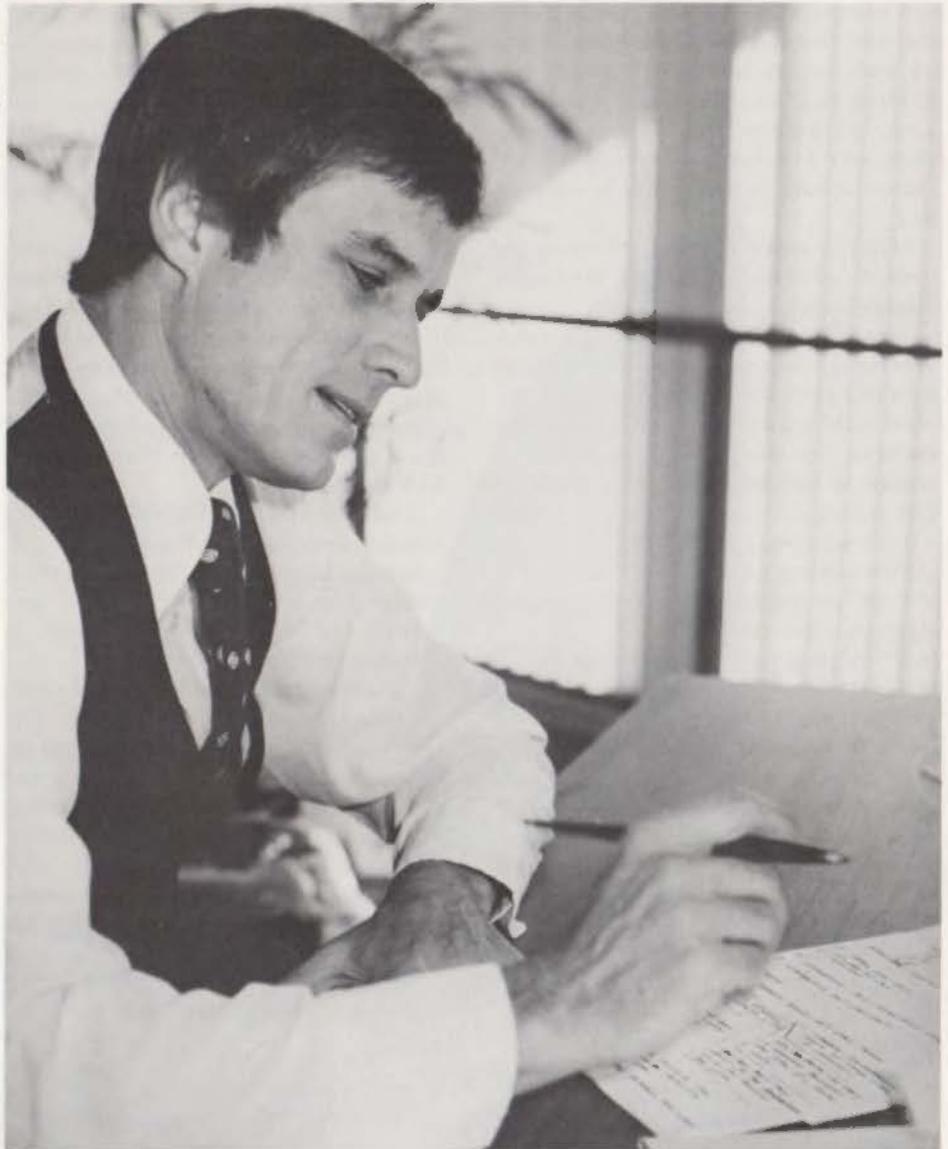
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January/February 1977

Profile

Photo by Kevin Green



Jack McGinty, FAIA

Jack McGinty: AIA President

By Joan Bennett Doerner

The new president of the American Institute of Architects is a Houston architect who doesn't really care much about buildings.

"I tend to make rash statements," says John Milton McGinty, 41, whose Texas-tanned face and faded-blue denim eyes give him the look of a younger Paul Newman. "But I honestly don't think individual buildings are as important any more."

McGinty cites the Pennzoil building in Houston as an example.

"Pennzoil Place is beautiful, but who cares? You get into your car and drive past ugly parking lots and junky furniture stores on Main Street to get there. You drive into a subterranean parking lot and

walk through grimy tunnels. Or you walk above ground on sidewalks that are not wide enough. By the time you reach the Pennzoil building you don't care if it's beautiful or not. How you get there and what you have to look at on the way are as important as having beautiful buildings in a city. Houston is a sorry place to be in and to walk in. It's like a museum of buildings. It's the total urban fabric of a city that's important."

McGinty is the youngest president the Institute has ever elected. He is wearing a short-sleeved cotton shirt and a blue tie, and he leans back on the comfortable sofa in his office and grins when he talks about AIA goals.

"Our goal is a better urban environment for the nation. Architecture is moving in a

new direction and I'd like to help define that new direction. In the fifties and sixties we were growth oriented. We had inexpensive fuel and unlimited economic resources. But now the whole society is entering an era of change — an era of limited resources both in energy and in economics."

McGinty looks up at his ceiling, at the rows of lights that glow there. He frowns disapprovingly.

"See all that light? We need it today because it's raining outside. But on most days this glass wall lets in plenty of light. Most buildings have too many lights on all the time. One third of the nation's energy is used in buildings and sixty percent of that is wasted."

I ask what we can do.

"We can begin to utilize nature again — the sun, the trees, the air. One tree in the right place can save a ton of air conditioning. We're groping for answers, but I believe renewable energy sources and conservation are at least part of the answer. In ten to twenty years, buildings will be running on solar energy — if we win out against the nukes."

I ask if he means the nuclear energy advocates.

"I certainly do. Nuclear energy is an in-

sane answer. It's unsafe, it's not cost effective — it would bankrupt the nation — and it relies on non-renewable resources. As for the waste, the plutonium, our government would have to guard it for 200,000 years. Nuclear energy is not affordable and it makes no biological sense."

When McGinty speaks of our government he speaks from experience in Washington. He spent from September 1967 until September of 1968 in the White House Fellows Program as an assistant to Udall, Secretary of the Interior during the Johnson administration. And he spends much of his time now in Washington at AIA Headquarters.

What else besides energy does he think is more important than buildings?

An architect who sees the ball and chain connection between architecture and politics, McGinty says he's as interested in politics as he is in buildings.

"You have to deal with politics if you're interested in fundamental change. Our goal is a better urban environment for the nation. Architecture is moving in a new direction and I have to care about politics to bring about the change in the total urban fabric that I want to happen."

The total urban fabric is more impor-

tant than individual buildings, he believes. And to improve the total urban fabric of cities in the United States, McGinty says the AIA has to take political action.

"For example," he says, "AIA advocates tax reform. On the surface, tax shelters for developers would seem to help architects by giving them more buildings to design, but the tax shelter actually encourages cheap initial buildings, encourages the shoddy, energy consuming buildings that ruin our cities."

Would he be in favor of a simple, straight-percentage income tax without any tax shelters?

"That would be the best kind," McGinty says.

I ask about Houston.

"Houston is a good example of what is wrong in the urban environment. I'm pessimistic about Houston; it is being planned ad hoc. Great individual planning is going on — Greenway Plaza and the Galleria are good examples. But have you ever tried to get from one to the other?"

McGinty waves his hand toward the tree and small green space outside his office.

"We need parks, open spaces, grass, places to walk in Houston. But the people who control Houston have knee-jerk reactions against any kind of public planning. They're working against their own good and don't realize it. Dallas spends over a million dollars a year on city planning. Houston's budget for city planning in 1975 was only \$260,848."

McGinty says he thinks it is ridiculous to spend so little on public planning in a city the size of Houston.

"I have great faith in public planning," McGinty says. "The Alaskan pipeline is one example of the value of public planning. It may be damaging to the environment, but if it hadn't been delayed, discussed and mulled over for five years, think how much more damaging it would have been. With no planning it would have been a disaster."

I ask how he gets so much done. He gives a modest answer.

"I don't. I have hard-working partners. They put up with me. With my traveling and absenteeism."

I ask about personal energy secrets like exercise or natural foods.

"I jog a mile or two several times a week and we eat fresh foods. Juanita belongs to a food co-op. I hate plastic whipped cream and chemical additives in food."

McGinty is a native Houstonian who attended Houston public schools and

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Episcopal high school in Virginia. He received a BS degree in architecture at Rice University and an MFA degree at Princeton University. He joined his father's architecture firm in 1966.

I ask what he does in his leisure time.

"I like anything outdoors — camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, tennis, sailing. Juanita and I like to go to galleries and museums. We used to go out to concerts, but now I like to lie on the sofa in my sandals and comfortable clothes and listen to music on records."

Civic activities?

"We support the American Civil Liberties Union and the Rice University Design Alliance."

Who is his favorite architect?

"We're in an anti-hero age," McGinty says. "But I admire Louis Kahn, who died in 1974. I worked under him at Princeton. And I admire Le Corbusier and Buckminster Fuller. But the AIA gold medal hasn't been awarded in several years and I don't think it will be awarded again. Architects work in teams now. One person can't do it all because the problems are too complex. Thomas Jefferson was nominated for the gold medal last year and even he couldn't win. If Thomas Jefferson can't win, I guess nobody can."

I ask if he has a favorite city.

"I have two — San Francisco and Washington, D.C. I like San Francisco because it's beautiful and I like Washington because the planning is beautiful. The buildings in Washington aren't much, but you can walk almost anywhere and be near grass and trees."

I ask McGinty what he will do after his tenure as AIA president is over.

"I guess I'll go fishing," he says.

Jack McGinty may say he doesn't care much about buildings, but it's obvious that he is vitally concerned about the context of which buildings are a part — the urban fabric of America. So it's difficult to believe he will just "go fishing."

Well, maybe on weekends.



Joan Bennett Doerner is a writer who lives in Houston with her husband and five children. Doerner says her interest in writing began when as a child she won a story-telling contest and a spelling bee in Wharton. At Rice University, Doerner studied architecture and English.

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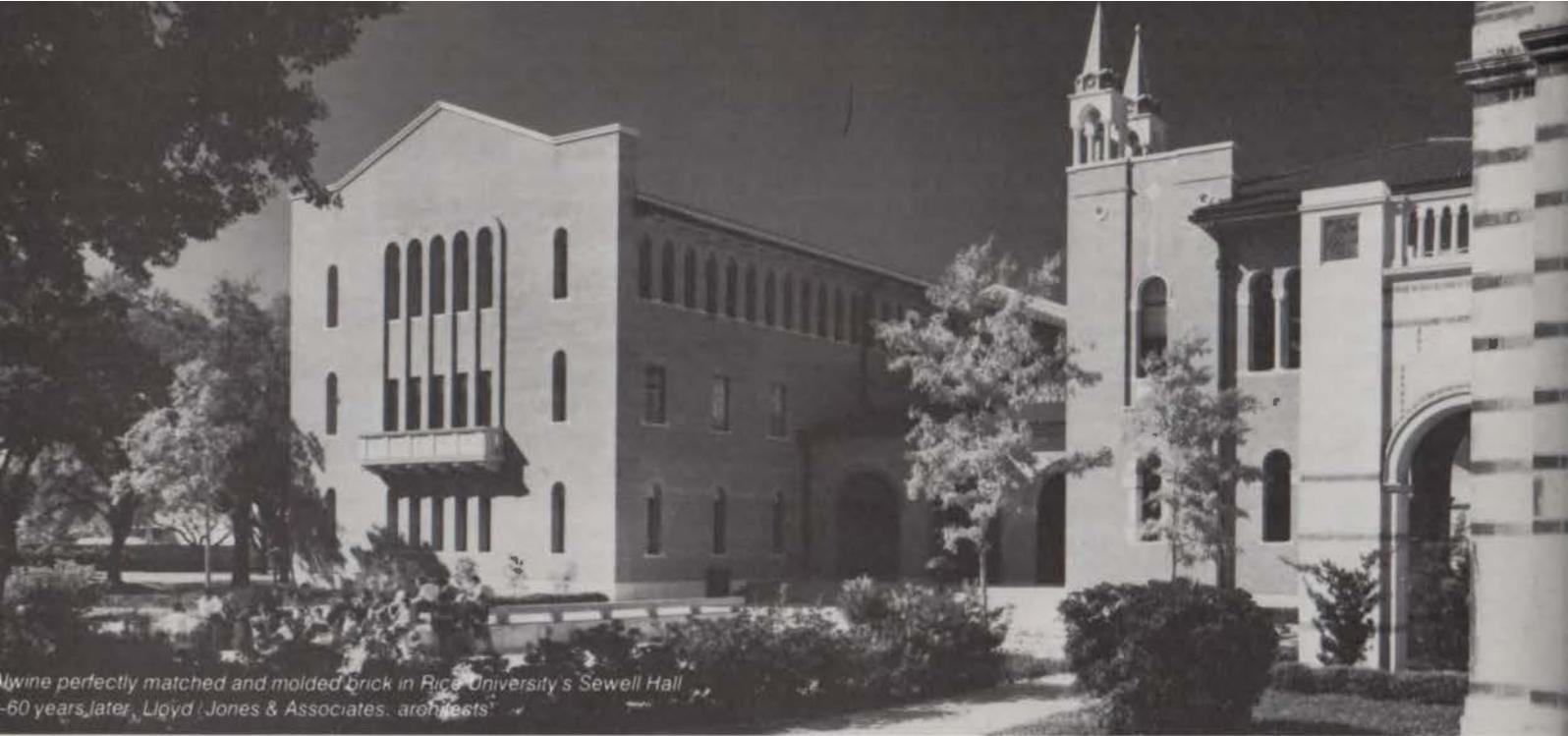
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Master Builder as Financial Manager

By Charles William Cook, AIA

Hallelujah—a new project! Just what you needed to get you out of the hole and over the hump.

Since the first time I walked into an architect's office looking for work some 20 years ago, the one constant in this ever-changing profession has been the eternally optimistic attitude that more work will solve all the financial problems. There seems to be a kind of "Doppler effect" for architects in their perspective of money—a fee before it is earned is more significant than after it is spent.

Musing on this phenomenon over the years has led me to conclude, first, and most significantly, that the talents required of an architect—artistic judgment and an ability to think in terms of volumes and spaces—are the antitheses of the talents required for management of finances. Second, and almost as significant, the training of an architect largely ignores business and financial management. Most architectural curricula do not include formal business and financial training and, during an internship, the closest the young graduate generally comes to financial management is keeping a time sheet. So it is that, despite the need for it, many architects fail to develop even a basic vocabulary for financial management. The unfortunate result is neglect of financial management, which is the jugular vein of any business.

Though self education will certainly compensate for deficiencies in financial training, the more basic problem of conflicting talents will still exist. That's why many architects (for some reason their practices seem to be a bit larger and more

stable than others) have utilized financial consultants to assist in the development of sound financial control systems.

The alternative is for you the architect to become your own financial manager by studying the principles and developing the vocabulary of sound financial management. And even if you elect to engage a consultant, certain basic knowledge is re-



Charles W. Cook is a native Texan and registered architect. He established his practice in Dallas in 1967, and in March of 1976 retired from practice to establish a consulting service especially for financial management of architectural practices.

quired. For, just as communication between you and your *building* consultants is important to the success of your buildings, communication between you and your *business* consultants is important to your financial success.

It is beyond the scope of this article to set out a step-by-step procedure for efficient financial management; but there are outlined herein several tools and techniques as a starting point for further study. And hopefully, you will gain a new perspective on what financial management systems can do for you.

As a first step, let's define financial management—not what Webster or Prentice-Hall says, or what is taught in Business Administration 301—but what it should mean to you as an architect. Financial management is the orderly supervision of assets and resources (money, talent, and time) to produce the greatest possible net income (spending money). Successful financial management involves two elements—a *plan* and a *record*. A financial plan is as important to your practice as are drawings and specifications to the construction of a successful building. Buildings can be constructed from sketches on napkins, but the chances for real success are slim. Similarly, practices can be conducted with minimal financial planning, but the chances for success are certainly impaired.

Many of my contractor friends feel that drawings and specifications for a construction project are a waste of time, a needless expense, and unnecessarily restrictive. Many of my architect friends feel the same way about operations

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budgets. A budget, like drawings and specifications, should resolve conflicts before they become problems. Proper construction drawings, for example, resolve conflicts between concrete beams and air conditioning ducts. Budgets resolve conflicts between expansion capital needs and cash flow. Preparation of an operating budget is not an easy task, but then the first set of construction drawings you faced seemed rather ominous, too.

The Financial Record

The second element of an effective financial management system is the *record*. It is important that tax accounting and management accounting not be confused. Tax accounting serves to satisfy the requirements of IRS in determining taxable income, and cash accounting is the accepted basis for a professional practice. (The author does not necessarily subscribe to the notion that the cash basis is the best method of tax accounting for every architectural practice). Accounting for good financial management of your practice requires both cash and accrual basis accounting. This is not dual accounting, since one system is an expansion of the other.

It is also important that profit (or heaven forbid, loss) not be confused with cash flow. These two factors must be philosophically separated, understood and analyzed, and then reintegrated, much like analytical separation and reintegration of form and function of a building. Your true financial condition is reflected only by records which show income when it is earned and expense when it is incurred. This method of accounting (accrual accounting) will tend to tell you what is going to happen to cash flow before it happens, and allow you to make adjustments to avoid cash squeezes. Please note that *you* must make the adjustments.

The foundation of the record part of a management system for any business is *inventory control*. For an architectural practice, inventory is time, and your inventory control is "time sheets." General information from time sheets should be summarized periodically. The frequency of this summarization will vary depending on the size of the firm, methods of operation and type of work. Daily summaries may not be too frequent for some, and others may find monthly summaries sufficient. Most firms will find weekly (or at least bi-weekly or semi-monthly) to work best. A timely review of these project summaries will reveal how efficiently the project is moving and what problems may be developing.

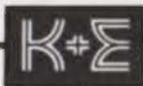
The success of your management system is directly proportional to the detail recorded on your time sheets. To achieve sufficient detail in time records, each principal and each employee should maintain a separate log for each project (including a log for office overhead time). If you spend fifteen minutes on the telephone, show it on your time sheets. If you spend two hours writing specifications, show it, separately, on your time sheets. Separate specification writing from design work, and separate both specification writing and design time from conferences. Separate time spent on floor plans from time spent on wall sections. Separate both from time spent on elevations. And, most important, record the time required for that visit with your banker to get an extension on the note payment. This notion applies to all administrative time, which includes all tasks not directly producing income.

A more detailed summary should be done at least after the project is completed, and perhaps each quarter during the project's duration. A review of these detailed summaries may serve only to identify the source of a problem pointed out in the more general project summaries. However, the detailed summaries provide excellent sources of information for scheduling operations and improving operational efficiencies.

Indirect Expense

Proper summaries should also reflect how much time is spent on income producing tasks, and how much is required for overhead tasks. Time for overhead tasks combined with cash expense for overhead (rent, telephone, travel, brochures, supplies, etc.) will generate information for calculation of an indirect expense factor. There are many ways to calculate an indirect expense factor and most are acceptable. This factor should effectively express all indirect expenses (including indirect time expense) as a ratio of direct time expense. Rather than debate the merits of one system over another, suffice it to say that an indirect expense factor is a very important tool and monitoring it can help you avoid problems which you might not otherwise recognize in time to make adjustments. Also, it is important to realize that maintaining a low indirect expense factor should *not* be your goal. The objective should be to maintain a reasonable factor which will generate the largest net income.

Another important tool for effective management is a *fee journal*. A proper fee journal should reflect accrued fees as they



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are earned, and the journal should be reconciled to the time sheet summaries. The effect of a proper fee journal is not only to reflect income as it accrues but to prevent oversight of any fee which should be invoiced. Without benefit of a fee journal, invoicing of clients is frequently inspired by a special need for cash; statements for fees become a function of someone's memory. The result is usually an unnecessary cash squeeze.

A fee journal coupled with an *accounts receivable ledger* will provide a fundamental control of a basic need for any business

— cash income. An accounts receivable ledger will also reflect the timeliness of collections and call to your attention those accounts which may require extra attention.

Of equal importance is an *accounts payable ledger*. It should show at a glance who you owe and how much. The difference between accounts receivable and accounts payable can serve as a barometer for cash flow. When receivables greatly exceed payables, you can probably expect a positive cash flow in the coming month. Conversely, when payables exceed receiva-

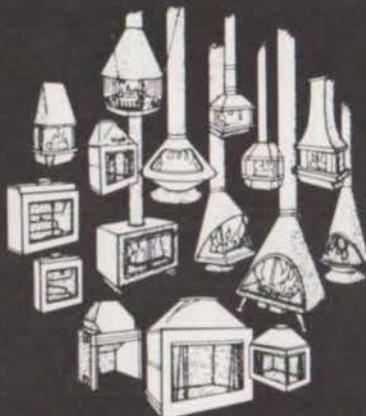
bles, you might as well plan for a cash squeeze and take steps to relieve the pressure early.

A *cash journal* provides a record of cash flow. Many (if not almost all) practices maintain a cash journal. However, too often, it functions only as a record for income and payroll tax returns. The cash journal should provide information for use in preparing a budget for future operations.

Profitability

Summation of information from the cash journal, fee journal, and accounts payable ledger should reflect the true profitability of your operations. This summation generates a true profit and loss statement. A monthly review of the profit and loss statement and balance sheet is normally all that will be required to keep you abreast of your financial status. The review will reveal developing problems, if any, which need further attention.

Investment of time and money in developing management systems will pay off in increased control of your financial destiny and in reduced time spent extinguishing financial "brush fires" or deliberating about financial and operational problems. Development of financial management systems may seem like an onerous task. But to paraphrase what a philosopher once suggested, "the longest trip begins with the first step." I do not suggest that the trip will be fun, but you will have quite a blast when you get there.



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In the News



Tom Bullock, FAIA

Pitts Award Winner

Houston architect Thomas A. Bullock has received TSA's Llewelyn W. Pitts Award for outstanding contributions to the architectural profession in Texas.

The award, presented recently in Dallas during the Society's 37th annual meeting, was established in 1967 in memory of former TSA president Llewelyn "Skeet"

Pitts of Beaumont. The Pitts Award is considered to be the highest honor the Society can bestow.

Bullock is board chairman of CRS Design Associates, Inc., a system of several environmental design companies including two Houston-based firms — Caudill Rowlett Scott, Inc., architects, and CM Associates, Inc., a construction management firm.

Bullock is past national director of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and has served as president of the Houston Chapter and the Texas Society of Architects. The AIA College of Fellows elected him to the status of AIA Fellow in 1970 in recognition of his contributions to the profession through service to the Institute and architectural practice.

Currently Bullock is a member of the Texas Research League board of directors and the Houston Symphony Society board of directors. His past community activity includes chairmanship of the Houston Chamber of Commerce Civic Affairs Committee and Bunker Hill Village Planning & Zoning Commission.

A native Texan, he received his Bachelor of Architecture at Texas A&M University, where he served on the faculty after graduation.

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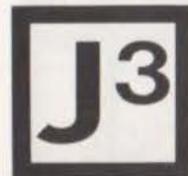


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Jack McGinty, FAIA, receives AIA presidential medal from outgoing president Lou de Moll, FAIA, in Washington, D.C., December 3.

McGinty Installed

Houston architect John M. McGinty, FAIA, was formally installed as the 1977 president of The American Institute of Architects in Washington, D.C., December 3. He succeeds Louis de Moll, FAIA, of Philadelphia, as head of the 26,000-member professional society.

McGinty, a principal of The McGinty Partnership, Architects Inc., and the Crane Design Group, both in Houston, is a graduate of Rice University with a Master of Fine Arts in Architecture from Princeton University. He was chairman of the Institute's 1975 convention in Atlanta and has served on many AIA national committees. In 1973, he was president of the Houston Chapter.

McGinty's firms are currently active in the fields of medical facilities design and athletic and community service structures. His firms received four Houston Chapter and Texas Society of Architects Design Awards in 1974.

He was on leave of absence from his firm during 1967-68, serving a year in Washington as a White House Fellow and assistant to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. His work there included the development of environmental planning programs for U.S. public lands and territorial possessions. He has also taught architectural design at Rice University and at the University of Houston.

See "Profile" in this issue of *Texas Architect*.

Flowers Award

Four Texas media representatives received a certificate and a \$500 cash award at TSA's annual meeting in Dallas November 5 as winners of the Sixth Annual John G. Flowers Memorial Award. The awards were presented for excellence in architectural reporting and criticism in four categories — newspaper, magazine, radio and television.

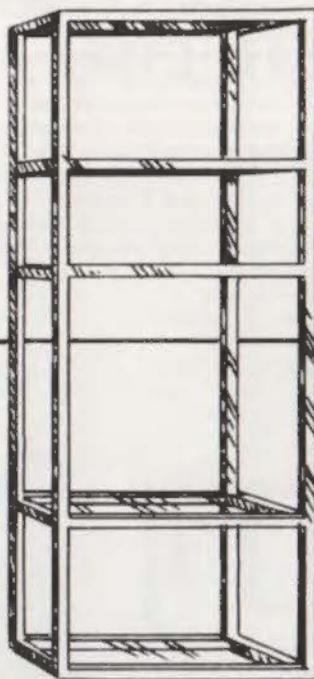
Magazine winner John Merwin, of *D Magazine*, was cited for "Town Lake 2000," described as "an excellent piece of urban design advocacy." Newspaper winner Elise Kowert, of the *Fredericksburg Standard*, won for her series on old homes in Fredericksburg, which was praised as being "exhaustively researched and written with admirable straightforwardness." Judge for the two print media categories was *AIA Journal* editor Donald Canty.

Winner in the radio category was Ben L. Slack, of Station KNET in Palestine, whose "Bicentennial Bandstand" series was lauded as "enlisting community-wide support for the erection of a fitting architectural legacy to future citizens." Ray Miller, of KPRC-TV in Houston, won in the television category for his series, "The Eyes of Texas," described as a "sensitive and thoroughly professional use of television for architectural reporting." Judge for the electronic media categories was Willard E. Walbridge, of Houston, 1975 Joint Chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters.

Appointments

Austin architect Hyder Joe Brown Jr. has been appointed by the national AIA board of directors to serve on the five-member National Judicial Board, which adjudicates ethical charges involving AIA members.

Dallas architect David Braden, FAIA, has been appointed to serve on the five-member AIA Nominating Committee for 1977.



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Houston architect **Mace Tungate Jr.**, FAIA, has been elected treasurer of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Martin Price, a member of the architecture faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington, has been named to the Architecture Advisory Panel of the Texas Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Charles R. Ince Jr., former Associate Assistant Administrator with the Federal Energy Administration, has joined the staff of the AIA Research Corporation as a full-time consultant. The corporation con-

ducts a variety of applied research projects focusing on national issues relating to the built environment.

News of Firms

Frank R. Glass has been appointed vice president and director of business development for **Theodore M. Heesch, Inc.**, Architects and Planners in Houston.

Former TSA President Benjamin E. Brewer Jr. has joined the Houston firm of **Lloyd/Jones & Associates**, now named **Lloyd/Jones and Brewer**.

David S. Minter and Walter Vackar, formerly of Taniguchi, Shefelman, Vackar, Minter, of Austin, have announced the establishment of **Minter-Vackar Associates** at 206 Gracy Title Building, 220 West 7th at Lavaca, Austin 78701. Telephone: 478-9668.

The Corpus Christi firm **Total Design Four** has announced that J. Carter Howald has joined the firm as a partner.

Vahe Sahakian has been elected an associate in the architectural and planning firm of **Rapp Fash Sundin/Incorporated**, Houston and Galveston.

Texas Architect Cited

For the second year in a row, *Texas Architect* has received a citation from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) in the organization's annual Evaluation and Awards program, open to publications throughout the Southwest. Managing Editor Larry Paul Fuller accepted the award during the IABC District 5 Conference in Dallas Oc-



TSA Director of Publications Larry Paul Fuller accepts magazine award from IABC Vice President Marilyn Baker.

tober 8. Judging was based on graphics, writing and overall content.

TSA's publicity campaign for "Renaissance 75," the 1975 Fort Worth annual meeting, also was honored during the conference. Graphic design for the project was done by Philip Poole Associates of Fort Worth.

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Best Booth Winner

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Dallas; Arcraft Industries, El Paso; and Wausau Metals, Wausau, Wisconsin—won the Best Booth Award in TSA's 1976 an-



"Best Booth" runner-up

nual meeting exhibition at the Dallas Fairmont November 3-5. Tejas and Arcraft also had a winning booth in Houston in 1974. This year's booth demonstrated Tejas' adaptation of two products—Arcraft exposed aggregate panels and Wausau windows—as components in composite exterior wall systems.

Winning the second place award was Edmund Kirk Associates, of Dallas, which displayed contemporary office systems and accessories.

The awards were presented on the basis of Best Booth Ballots cast by convention registrants. TSA's 1977 exhibition will be held in El Paso October 19-21.



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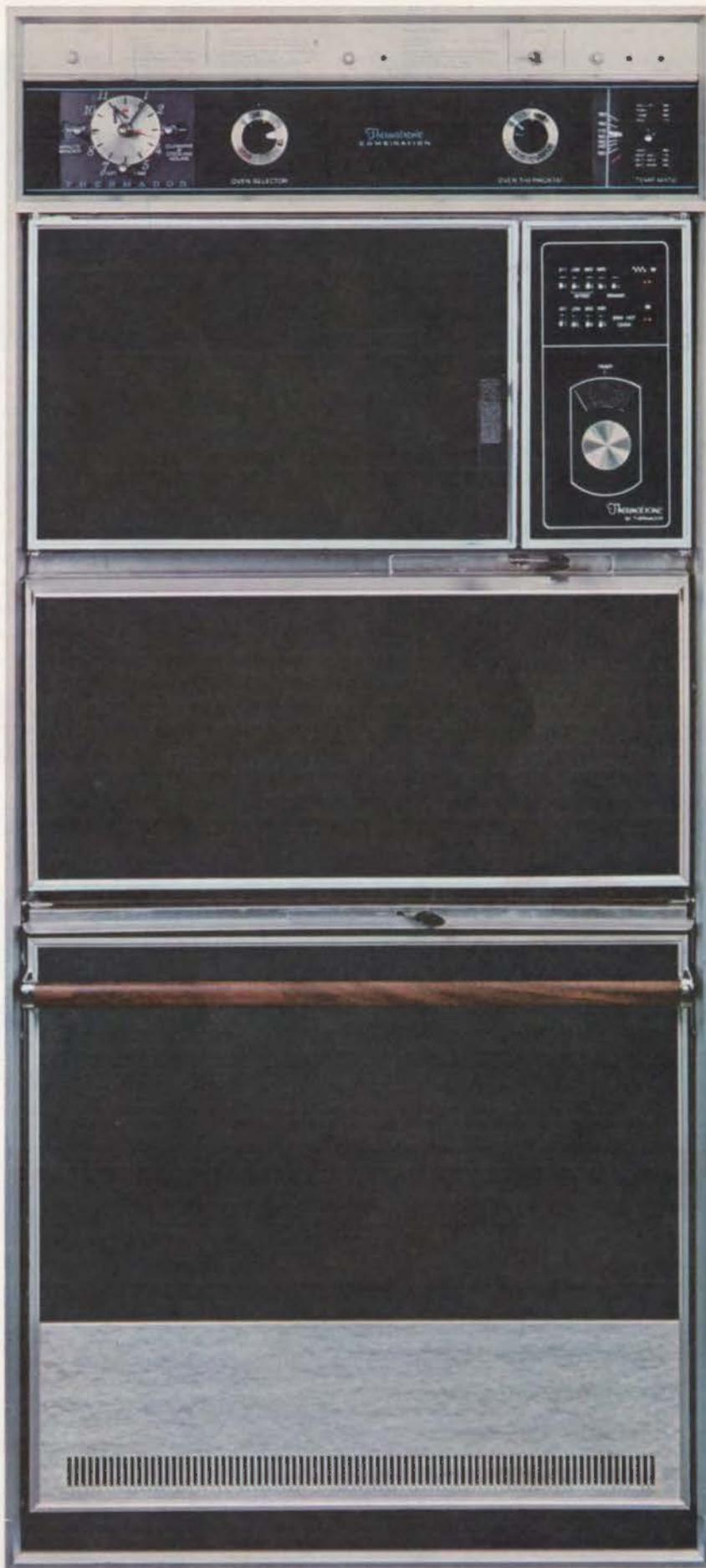
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Waterwood Visitor's Center

Wood Award

The Dallas based Pierce, Lacey Partnership, Inc., was presented the Texas Forestry Association's Award for Excellence in architecture utilizing wood for its Waterwood Visitor's Center near Lake Livingston.

The whole Waterwood project is a study in the use of wood. The Information Center was singled out because of the unique round pods that make up the structure.

The interior of the center features a main frame of laminated yellow pine bents radiating from a central compression ring at the peak of the cone roof. The roofs are

natural red cedar shingles. The walls are covered inside and out with random width stained red cedar siding. The framing of all walls and floors is with dimension yellow pine and the decks are either treated yellow pine or a combination of pine and pebble finished concrete.

The wood of the exterior allows the structure to blend with the surrounding wooded area.

School Cited

The Pasadena firm of Doughtie & Porterfield has been cited by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) of the United States and Canada for its design of the Robert Bevis Frazier Elementary School in Houston.

The project, one of 87 educational facilities displayed during the recent ASBO annual meeting in Boston, received an Architectural Merit Award. Twenty-seven projects were distinguished by the jury — eight with a Certificate of Architectural Excellence and nineteen with an Architectural Merit Award.

Deaths

Houston architect John F. Garrison Jr. died October 25.





Jim Pfluger



Joe Brown

Pfluger Ends Thirteen Year's Service

Beginning with this issue, a prominent name in the history of Texas Architect will be missing from the masthead. Longtime supporter, contributor and advisor Jim Pfluger has relinquished his responsibilities after thirteen years of voluntary service to the magazine.

Pfluger, a partner in the Austin firm of Pfluger & Polkinghorn, became associate editor of Texas Architect in 1963. He was editor from 1966 through 1973, and since then has served as editorial consultant. Always an ardent believer in the need for a magazine about Texas architecture, Pfluger

has even been known to peddle advertising on his own time to help keep the magazine "afloat." He deserves much of the credit for any progress evident in the quality of Texas Architect since 1963, when the magazine was a 16-page monthly compiled on nights and weekends. And we of the staff shall miss him.

We are fortunate, however, to have as our new editorial consultant architect Joe Brown, associate partner in the Austin firm of Jessen Associates, Inc. Brown brings with him to his voluntary position a propensity for humor, an eye for detail and some 25 years of architectural experience. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and is listed in Marquis' Who's Who in the South and Southwest. Brown has practiced in La Jolla, California, where he helped produce an award-winning architecture/arts publication entitled Omniart. He has been a member of TSA's Austin chapter since 1967 and served as its president in 1975. Brown has been a contributing author for various professional journals on the subject of school facilities planning and co-authored a planning manual for the Council of Educational Facilities Planners. — Editor

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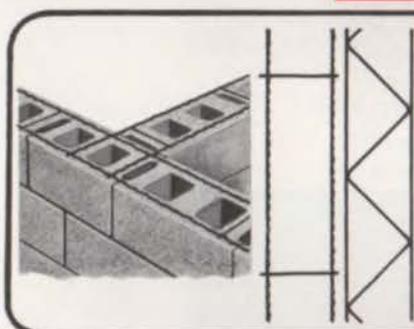
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Letters

Editor: I must take exception to the reference to George E. Kessler as a "planning engineer" ("One-Horse Town Grows Up", *Texas Architect*, Nov./Dec). He was by virtue of his training in Europe, his work under Frederic Law Olmsted and his extensive practice in cities throughout the midlands of America a landscape architect. Kessler was engaged by the Park Board of Kansas City as an "engineer" and was (along with 13 other landscape architects) a charter member of the American City Planning Institute (now the American Institute of Planners), but that was not until 1917, five years before his death.

Kessler considered himself a landscape architect and his greatest achievements lie in the development of park systems. In Dallas alone Turtle Creek, Lake Cliff Park and the great park at White Rock Reservoir are testaments to his work.

Larry A. DeMartino
Landscape Architect
San Antonio

Editor: In regard to James Pratt's article "An Architect in Search of Dallas" (*Texas Architect*, Nov./Dec.): his perceptions of Dallas are interesting, but I *must* strongly challenge his statements concerning "ethnic expression in physical design."

Mr. Pratt suggests that minorities should be constructing kitsch gingerbread buildings and landscapes "which express their cultures." He intimates that minorities are not genuine stockholders in America and its culture, that they have no claim to the rights, privileges, and ideals of the American middle class. He implies that the "middle class" is or should be an exclusive "wasp" club. I seriously question his credentials to make such an assumption and/or judgment.

Mr. Pratt charges: "If the minorities ever get it together and stop copying middle-class wasps when they build, Dallas could become a very unique place as a meeting ground of three cultures." First, it is interesting whom he considers "minority" and what he considers "unique." He speaks of Mr. I.M. Pei's Dallas City Hall, but he makes no observation about its expression or lack of oriental flavor. There is little question of the uniqueness of Mr. Pei's building and what it will do for Dallas since it is already being acclaimed by observers and critics of the stature of Ada Louise Huxtable.

I must ask if it has ever occurred to Mr.

Pratt that all the "copying" cannot be exclusively charged to minorities. For example, there have been more than one hundred all-Black settlements in the history of America. The environmental attitudes, management practices, and design standards of these settlements have frequently influenced entire regions. Dallas has seen the likes of some capable and influential Black designers, but unfortunately has failed to recognize them.

A point not frequently acknowledged is that minorities are undeniably part of America, like it or not. The "China Towns," "Little Italys," "Dark Towns", and Old Elm Streets are, or were, the "marginal artifacts" Mr. Pratt speaks about — artifacts of the past, responding to bygone social, political, and economic milieus. To suggest, or even think, that minorities should aspire toward these types of environments — rather than toward a stimulating and healthy life in a city Mr. Pratt claims lives for the future — is to condemn them to all the injustices and degradation of yesterday.

There are undoubtedly some interesting ethnic activities in motion in Texas cities (in cities across the country), and ethnic people are expressing themselves. Mr. Pratt fails to recognize these things because he is looking for an archaic stereotype; a superficial fashion plate; mythical "Blues lands;" and commercial cliché; not for the currency and essence of these cultures, nor what they might be in the future. I am truly sorry for his myopia.

Minorities do have attitudes toward the environment, and do suggest these daily, but thankfully not in the forms Mr. Pratt suggests.

Finally, it is imperative to give credit to Mr. Pratt for even mentioning minority people in conjunction with environmental design and human habitats. This association has long been ignored by those who write of, and teach, architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design.

Everett L. Fly
Graduate student, Landscape Architecture
Harvard University

Mr. Pratt has informed Texas Architect that he stands behind the observations he made in his article. He believes that Mr. Fly has "read more into the comments on ethnic architecture" than was merited by the comments as they appeared in print.

It may be true that the suggestions per-

taining to a "unique" expression of "ethnic architecture" in Dallas are not sufficiently developed, in specific architectural terms, as to what such an "ethnic expression" would look like. But Mr. Pratt contends that such specifics were not the purpose of his article. He was trying only to give a "general overview" of Dallas' architectural character, as he sees it, not to define the details of what the city's "built environment" might or should be under optimum conditions.

Finally, Mr. Pratt maintains that he would deny to no group, ethnic or otherwise, the "right and privilege" of participating in "American middle class" life, culture, and architecture — if that is what the group chooses to do. But he believes that there are many in America's ethnic minorities who would prefer to build, architecturally and otherwise, on their own unique heritage. To the extent that this occurs, it will strengthen and augment an element of diversity and richness in the American cityscape that is presently being eroded by "middle class" architectural homogeneity.

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PURE WOOL PILE